

**BRIEF**

**Funding**



**New Delhi:** Food startup VS Mani & Co on Tuesday said it has raised USD 3,70,000 (over Rs 2.5 crore) in an angel funding round. Co Founder GD Prasad said many south Indian foods are popular across the country but there are hardly any pan-India players.

**Investments**

**Chennai:** Global consulting, technology and managed services provider Proapt on Tuesday said the company has planned to double the investments made in the United Kingdom to 100 million pounds in the coming years in the technology sector. Early this year, Proapt had established a local office in London. Some of the customers in the United Kingdom include telecom operators, digital service providers and technology companies, among others.

**Raises**



**New Delhi:** Telehealth platform Truemeds on Tuesday said it has raised around Rs 168 crore in a funding round led by private equity fund Westbridge Capital. CEO Akshat Nayyar said the market moves towards generics is inevitable and Truemeds will lead.

**Ties-up**

**New Delhi:** Electric vehicle maker, One Moto India on Tuesday said it has partnered with Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co Ltd for insurance policies of its vehicles. Under the tie-up, One Moto India customers will be able to avail an add on cover-depreciation waiver that enables them full claim without deduction, to their motor policies issued by the brand.

**Launches**



**Farrukhnagar:** French third party logistics company FM Logistic on Tuesday inaugurated its first owned multi-client facility (MCF) here as part of its five-year 150 million euros investment plan. CEO Jean-Christophe Machel said we aim to help our customers.

**Generate**

**New Delhi:** EKI Energy Services Ltd (EKI) said it will generate 1 billion carbon credits by 2027. Carbon credits are earned by reduction of greenhouse gas emission in the atmosphere through climate-friendly projects, and can be used by governments, industries or private individuals to compensate for generating emissions elsewhere.

# FM invites US semicon players to make further investments in India

Washington, Apr 26 (PTD):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday held a meeting with representatives of the semiconductor industry of the US and invited them to make further investments in India.

The Finance Minister spoke about opportunities for companies situated in Silicon Valley and about the government of India's commitment to be a reliable player in the entire semiconductor value chain with dedicated incentive for the sector in mission mode through the Indian Semiconductor Mission.

Last year, the government approved a Rs 76,000-crore scheme to boost semiconductor and display manufacturing in the country in a bid to position India as a global hub for hi-tech production, and attract large chip makers.

Incentives have been lined up for companies engaged in silicon semicon-



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a roundtable meeting with business leaders and investors co-hosted by CII, at Silicon Valley.

ductor fabs, display fabs, compound semiconductors, silicon photonics, sensor fabs, semiconductor packaging and semiconductor design. During the roundtable with industry leaders from the semiconductor ecosystem, including design, manufacturing, equipment, technology and systems in San Francisco, the participants informed the Finance Minister that they

have substantially scaled their capabilities in India in the last few years and are also collaborating with Academia for R&D.

"The participants also mentioned that in view of global supply chain disruptions, they need to review overreliance of supply chain in certain jurisdictions and with the right policies and talent in place, next decade will belong to

India," the finance ministry said in a tweet.

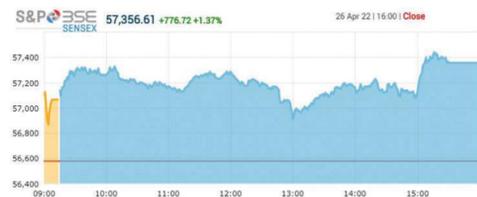
Participating in the meeting Devinder Kumar, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of AMD spoke about the company's growth in India and how India is poised to grow strongly with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat driving it. Western Digital, Senior Vice President, Corporate Business

**Be part of India's growth story**

Washington: Nirmala Sitharaman at the Silicon Valley invited investors to be part of the country's growth story while pitching for collaboration with the US in financial services and emerging technologies. She said financial technology (fintech) represents a unique opportunity for sustainable and inclusive growth.

Development Dan Steere said the company is excited to explore opportunities with the government of India to expand manufacturing in the Indian market. Manish Bhatia, executive vice president of global operations at Micron Tech said the USD 10 million scheme by the government would encourage semiconductor manufacturing in India.

## Markets rebound after 2-day slide, Sensex jumps 777 points



Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTD):

Benchmark indices rebounded sharply on Tuesday after falling for the past two sessions, with the Sensex rallying nearly 777 points, helped by buying in index major Reliance Industries and recovery in global markets.

The 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 776.72 points or 1.37 per cent to end at 57,356.61. During the day, it rallied 862.35 points or 1.52 per cent to 57,442.24.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 246.85 points or 1.46 per cent to finish at 17,200.80.

Larsen & Toubro, SBI, Bharti Airtel and HUL were among the major gainers. In contrast, Axis Bank, Asian Paints, Maruti and TCS closed with losses. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul settled in the green, while Shanghai ended lower.

Markets in Europe were also trading in the green in the afternoon session.

Stocks in the US had ended with gains on Monday.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.75 per cent to USD 101.55 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors continued their selling spree, offloading shares worth a net Rs 3,302.85 crore on Monday, according to stock exchange data.

## Rupee recovers to 76.60 against USD, bullion rises

Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTD):

Snapping its two-day losing streak, the rupee rose by 4 paise to 76.60 against the US dollar on Tuesday, following a rebound in regional currencies and domestic equities.

However, the appreciation bias in the local unit will be capped in the near-term amid fears about the economic impact of China's COVID-19 lockdowns and an aggressive pace of the US rate hikes, traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 76.48 against the greenback and moved in a range of 76.43 to 76.69 in the day trade. The rupee traded at 76.60 at 1530hrs, higher by

4 paise over its previous close of 76.64.

"Indian rupee inched up after two days of sharp sell-off following rebound in regional currencies and domestic equities. The fall in crude oil and commodity prices and expectations of foreign fund inflows from LIC IPO supporter will be followed by risk moods and movement in Chinese yuan," Parmar said.

However, the local unit is still not out of the woods as strength in the dollar against major currencies, weaker economic growth, higher inflation are likely to limit the gains.

"Broadly, spot USDINR is expected to trade in the range of 76 to 77 while near term directions will be followed by risk moods and movement in Chinese yuan," Parmar said.

### Canara Bank's Board Meeting scheduled on May 6

Bengaluru, Apr 26: Canara Bank in its notification to Stock Exchanges informed that its Board will meet on 6th May 2022 for approval of Financial Results and recommend consideration of Dividend, if any, for the FY 2021-22.

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said if the US-based Tesla is ready to manufacture its electric vehicles in India then there is 'no problem' but the company must not import cars from China.

In an interactive session at the Raisina Dialogue, Gadkari further said India is a large market and there is a huge potential for all electric vehicles.

"If Elon Musk (Tesla CEO) is ready to manufacture in India then there is no problem... Come to India, start manufacturing, India is a large market they can export from India," he said. The road transport and highways minister said



Union minister Nitin Gadkari speaking at Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi on Tuesday.

his request to Musk is to come and manufacture in India. "But if he wants to manufacture in China and sell in India, then it cannot be a good proposition for India," Gadkari said.

According to him, India has got all the competence. "The vendors are avail-

### High seasonal temperature is problem for batteries

New Delhi: Amid incidents of electric two-wheelers catching fire, Nitin Gadkari urged companies to take advance action to recall all defective vehicles, even as he said there is some problem with EV batteries when the temperature rises in the months of March, April and May.

able. We have all types of technology, we have all the spare parts," he said, adding that it will be a win-win situation for both India and Tesla. Last year, the heavy industries ministry had also asked Tesla to first start manufacturing its iconic electric vehicles in India before any tax concessions can be considered.

At present, cars imported as completely built units

(CBUs) attract customs duty ranging from 60-100 per cent, depending on engine size and cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value less or above USD 40,000.

Last year, in a letter to the road ministry, the US firm had stated that the effective import tariff of 110 per cent on vehicles with customs value above USD 40,000 is "prohibitive" to zero-emission vehicles.

## Series of steps taken to strengthen IPR regime

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

The government has taken a series of measures, including reducing the number of forms for trademarks and patents, to further strengthen the country's IPR (intellectual property rights) regime, a top government official said on Tuesday.

Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Anurag Jain also said several steps have been taken to enhance innovation and the knowledge economy.

We have the third largest startup ecosystem. We have reached a level of 80 startups being registered every day in our country, which is the high-



est in the world, he said here at a conference.

He said that in trade marks, there used to be 74 forms but now they have been reduced to just eight and similarly for patents, all the forms were scrapped and now there is only one form.

To increase awareness about IPR, he said there is a need to inculcate seeds of IP in the minds of young people.

## Assocham pitches for zero import duty on coal

### More rail rakes to deal with power supply issues

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

Industry body Assocham has made a case for duty-free import of coal, greater availability of railways rake to transport the dry fuel and different rate of diesel for captive generators for dealing with power supply issue amid summer.

"We would urge states and discoms not to differentiate against commercial consumers in power supply. This is critical because growth in industrial production remains muted despite the overall



Deepak Sood

economic recovery," Assocham Secretary General Deepak Sood said.

Assocham has suggested key measures, including duty-free imports of coal along with increased availability of railway rakes for movement of coal and differential rate of diesel for captive gener-

ator sets for tackling challenges of power supply in several states, amidst unprecedented early onset of heatwave conditions in several parts of the country. While the Centre has allowed blending of imported coal to the extent of 10 per cent with the domestic coal, global supply constraints and a sharp rise in the prices in the international markets are making going difficult for power generating companies and discoms in the further chain of transmission, he added.

"Although the import duty on coal is 2.5 per cent at present, we would urge scrapping the duty for now in view of the pressing situation," he stated.

## HAL, Bharat Electronics ink deal to make IRST for Su-30 MKI jets

Bengaluru, Apr 26 (PTD):

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Tuesday said it has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for co-development and co-production of Long Range Dual Band Infra-Red Search and Track System (IRST) for Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jets.

The contract was signed under the MAKE-II procedure of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, as part of the Make in India initiative.

"The proposed IRST system will be a high-end strategic technology prod-

uct in the field of defence avionics and technically competitive to existing IRST system in the global market with features of Television Day Camera, Infrared & LASER sensors in single window for air-to-air and air-to-ground target tracking and localization," HAL said in a release. The system will enhance the Indian Air Force's air superiority, it said. The coming together of two defence PSUs for development of technologically critical IRST gives impetus to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the defence sector, the release stated.

## Intervention sought to restore insurance premium rates for hotel properties

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

Hospitality industry body Hotel Association of India (HAI) on Tuesday said it has asked the government to intervene to restore insurance premium rates for hotel properties to FY 2018-19 level, stating these have been increased by over two-and-half times by re-insurers.

In a submission to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the body has highlighted that there has been a steep rise in insurance premiums for hotel properties in the last few years, putting all hotels at par without offering flexibility to insurance compa-



nies to quote according to the risk category of the insured, HAI said in a statement.

In its recommendation, HAI said it has asked the government to "restore the insurance premium rates for hotel properties to the level of FY 2018-19", adding it has pointed out that "the General Insurance Corporate of India Ltd (GIC Re) and

other re-insurers have increased the premium rates substantially by more than two-and-half times from the pre-FY 2018-19 levels."

Re-insurers provide financial protection to insurance companies handling risks that are too large for insurance companies to handle on their own thereby making it possible for them to obtain business that they would not otherwise be able to.

"The two-and-half times increase is putting additional pressure on hotel chains, especially those who have invested a lot in safety and preventive protocols.

## Sebi attaches properties to recover investors' money

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

With an aim to recover investors' money to the tune of Rs 56 crore, capital markets regulator Sebi has attached as many as 14 properties related to Greentouch Projects and its four directors in an illegal fundraising case.

The properties being attached include land parcels, plots, office spaces and a flat located in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, according to a recovery notice issued.

The recovery proceedings have been initiated against Greentouch Projects and its four directors - Shyam Sundar Dey, Snehasish Sarkar, Sujoy

Sinha and Sumon Sarkar - for failure to repay Rs 56 crore collected by the company through non-convertible redeemable debentures to 20,549 individuals without complying with public issue norms specified under the Companies Act and Sebi's ILDS (Issue and Listing of Debt Securities) rules. However, the company had claimed to have already repaid an amount of over Rs 12.24 crore to its investors.

Since the shares were issued by the firm to more than 50 individuals, it qualified as a public issue that requires compulsory listing on a recognised stock exchange, among others.



## Twinkle Khanna's short story to be made into a film by Sonal Dabral

**A** new movie is in the works based on actress-turned-author Twinkle Khanna's short story 'Salaam Noni Appa' from her 2016 anthology, 'The Legend of Lakshmi Prasad'.

The yet-to-be-titled film will be jointly produced by Applause Entertainment, Ellipsis Entertainment and Twinkle's Mrs Funnybones Movies.

Sharing his excitement over the project, Sonal Dabral, the director, described the story as being "progressive, sensitive ... full of wit and observational humour, a hallmark of Twinkle Khanna."

The ad filmmaker added: "I couldn't have asked for a better debut as a feature film director. I'm looking forward to bringing this story to life in a way that will not only inspire people, but also be loved by all." Talking about the story's journey, Twinkle said: "'Salaam Noni Appa', from my second book, is loosely based on the relationship between my grandmother and her sister. It was first adapted into a lovely play." Commenting on the development, Sameer Nair, CEO, Applause Entertainment, said: "We're absolutely thrilled to adapt 'Salaam Noni Appa', a delightful story that defies convention, with Twinkle's irrepressible wit, and her distinctive gaze on love, life and relationships."

In a joint statement, producers Tanuj Garg and Atul Kasbekar of Ellipsis Entertainment promised that the film "will leave you with a warm, fuzzy feeling."

They added: "In line with our track record of identifying the best directorial talent from advertising, we're delighted to have leading ad-man Sonal Dabral helm the film."

## Palak portrays as Jagannath's granddaughter Isha in 'Dosti Anokhi'

The variety of shows presented by Sony Entertainment Television has always managed to pique the interest of viewers and hits the right chord with the viewers. One of them is the slice of life drama, Jagannath aur Purvi Ki 'Dosti Anokhi,' which has successfully generated a lot of excitement among audiences since its very first episode. With its heartwarming narrative, the show gives a fresh perspective towards the precious relationships we hold sacred in our lives. The slice of life drama takes the viewers on beautiful journey of an elderly gentlemen, Jagannath Mishra (played by Rajendra Gupta) finding his lost sense of life's purpose through a young stranger-turned-friend Purvi (played by Ismeet Kohli). As they juggle through different worldviews and experiences to forge a sweet and iron-clad camaraderie, the show brings forth the nuanced facades of human emotions. Spicing up the drama further and adding tons of obstacles between Jagannath and Purvi is actor Palak Jain who portrays the character of Isha, Deepa's daughter and Jagannath and Kusum's grand-daughter. Hailing from Uttar Pradesh, Palak is a popular television face who has



charmed her way in the audience hearts with her acting skills. Essaying the role of fun loving and grounded girl Isha, Palak shares her excitement saying, "I have always wanted to work with Sony Entertainment Television because of the relatable content they offer to their viewers; I truly admire this. It was on my bucket list from the time I started acting. Now I feel I can finally tick that off, as I am stepping into the shoes of Isha!"

## Ambika Soni to essay Daruka's character in 'Baal Shiv'

**&**TV's Baal Shiv continues to entertain its viewers with its strong characters and compelling storyline, Mahadev Ki Undekhi Gatha. An exciting new character will be introduced to the plot soon, raising the show's entertainment level several notches higher. Actor Ambika Soni, who has made appearances in numerous south films and various fiction and mythological television shows, will be soon seen as Daruka in &TV's Baal Shiv.

Talking about her character and excitement to join &TV's Baal Shiv, Ambika Soni, aka Daruka, shares "My character Daruka is an evil demoness but also a devotee of Devi Parvati and has always worshipped her. Daruka's rigorous austerity impressed Devi Parvati and she granted her a boon to carry the beautiful Darukvan with her wherever she goes. The character is projected to be egoistic and greedy, known for her atrocious behavior towards others. Her character will bring an interesting twist to the show."

On her excitement about being a part of the show, Ambika adds, "I am excited to be playing this role. As an actor, I am ecstatic to have the chance to collaborate with such a talented and creative cast and crew. Baal Shiv is unlike any other mythological show I've seen; it has its own originality and essence, which defines it as a masterpiece. I'll do my best to hold the audience's attention and put on my best performance." Watch Ambika Soni as Daruka in &TV's Baal Shiv at 8:00 pm, airing every Monday to Friday!



## Isha Koppikar overjoyed with response to her Telugu series 'Dahanam'

**A**ctress Isha Koppikar, who was recently seen in the crime thriller series 'Dahanam', is over the moon with the response to the series where she plays a cop.

The actress is grateful and full of gratitude with all the love that is coming her way and the appreciation that's flowing in from all quarters.

Talking about the well received series, Isha said in a statement, "It's a proud feeling to be able to don the uniform, be it on screen or off screen as I feel that the one who wears the uniform shoulders responsibilities starting from that very moment."

"After receiving so much love from my near and dear ones I feel I did justice to my role. I am thankful to all for supporting me and I hope they continue to do so even in the future as I am more excited for 'Dahanam season 2'".

'Dahanam', which has been directed by Agastya Manju, is the OTT debut of 'Satya' director Ram Gopal Varma as a producer. The Telugu series presents an action-packed story of a son avenging his father's death. The series dropped on OTT platform MX Player on April 14.

## &TV artists share their favourite fan moments

The undying love of a fan turns an artist into a celebrity. We have come across several stories of fans talking about their favourite star and their love for them. However, in contrast, &TV artists talk about their fans, who have showered them with immense love and appreciation. These include Aan Tiwari (Baal Shiv, Baal Shiv), Pawan Singh (Ramesh Prasad Mishra, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?), Yogesh Tripathi (Happu Singh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan) and Shubhangi Atre (Angoori Bhabi, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). Shubhangi Atre

(Angoori Bhabi, &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) adds, "Every artist thrive on the love they receive from the audience, and I am blessed to receive so much love from my fans. But one gesture that touched my heart and I felt truly honoured was when I came across a lookalike goddess statue on social media. Many people had tagged me, pointing out how that idol looked like me. I was honestly quite emotional when I saw that picture. It was one of the most memorable moments to see someone going out of their way to show their love and affection to me. It truly made me feel very special. I will be forever indebted to the artist for this gesture."

Tune in to watch Baal Shiv at 8:00 PM, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? at 9:30 PM, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 PM and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 PM, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

## HOROSCOPE WEDNESDAY APRIL 27

### Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

A member of your household could be going through some rough times, Aquarius, and as a result might become overly dependent on your moral and emotional support. This is flattering, but it could also be a drain on your energy. Carefully consider what you really need to say to your friend.

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Some blatantly untrue gossip could reach you today, Pisces. When you think about it, you'll see that what you heard defies all logic and is actually rather ludicrous. However, the person who reports it to you could be so dynamic and persuasive that you believe it for a little while. Remember to check the facts in such situations.

### Gemini: May 22 - June 21

A strange person promoting him- or herself as a mind-reader of sorts could come onto the scene today, Gemini. This person, however, is more mixed up than mindful. Therefore, take any predictions with a grain of salt, if not the whole shaker. Chances are good that none of them have any basis in reality.

### Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Your financial goals could seem vague and uncertain at this time, Cancer. Perhaps you face a crossroads in your life as far as income goes, and you might not be sure which way to go. Or else you could be planning to make some purchases and have a hard time deciding which are most important.

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Some disturbing dreams could bring up doubts you may have about the motives of someone you consider a friend, Libra. This person might have been acting strangely, and you could be wondering about the future of your friendship. It's important to look at the symbols in the dreams and try to analyze what they're telling you.

### Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Some underhanded and not altogether honest machinations could be happening at the workplace, Scorpio. You could be offended by it, and you could also worry if it threatens your job. Then you might also consider what you're doing there, if it's that sort of organization. These inner conflicts could signify the need to focus on the realities and discern exactly what you want to do.

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Aries, today you could feel the need to work on your finances - pay bills, make deposits, and plan a budget for next month - but your heart won't be in it. Your mind is probably on more interesting projects. If you try to force it, you'll be unable to concentrate, so it could be a waste of time. It won't hurt if you wait a few days.

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

A colleague's motives could seem rather sinister today, Leo. This person has a definite agenda of his or her own that may not take into account the needs or feelings of anyone who could conceivably stand in the way. This person isn't to be trusted. Don't excuse his or her behavior.

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

Today you might feel a little out of sorts, Sagittarius, and your concentration could be diminished. You might even have a little trouble focusing on your work. Don't worry about it. It's more mental than anything else, and it will pass. You might feel the need to drink coffee all day to stay alert. Try to exercise some restraint on this, since it could be counterproductive.

### Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Usually, Taurus, you have pretty good powers of focus and concentration. However, today you might find that these powers are flagging. Working could be difficult, and you could even find yourself dwelling on disappointments from your past. You might want to stop and try to figure out why these memories are coming up now.

### Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

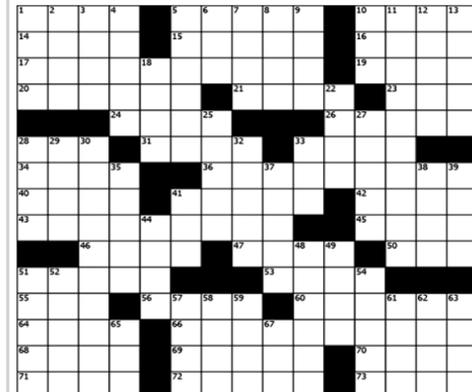
Today doubts may crop up for you concerning certain spiritual concepts that you've embraced for a long time, Virgo. Don't let this cause a crisis. It could just be a normal part of your inner growth. Instead, go back and read the old books that got you started, and then read some new ones and try to view the ideas from your current perspective.

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Today doubts, uncertainties, and insecurities could plague a love relationship, Capricorn. Does your beloved share your passion? Is your friend being honest and open with you? Does this relationship have a future? The only way to get past this inner turmoil is to take one step at a time and take a good long look at the results of each step.

## CROSSWORD

### 282



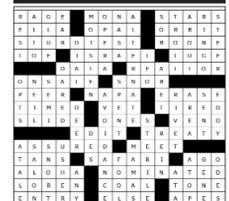
### ACROSS

- Lamenting cry
- Slight error
- Revolve
- Affluent
- Poe's middle name
- Gambling game
- Communicate by letter
- The \_\_\_ of March
- Scoffs
- Big quiz

### DOWN

- Circle segments
- Big cat
- Land measure
- Fragment
- TV pooch
- Swiss peak
- Plan
- Sensible
- Make \_\_\_ meet
- Snow runner
- Walker
- Sluggish
- Nuzzles
- Miscalculates
- Tiny stick
- Basil sauce
- Foe

### SOLUTION 281



## Battle of pace aces: It's Ferguson vs Umran as Titans face stern Sunrisers test

Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTD):

The speed gun radar will be functioning overtime when Lockie Ferguson's 150 click thunderbolts meets its match in rising pace sensation Umran Malik's toe-crushers as table toppers Gujarat Titans clash with close-on-heels Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL here on Wednesday.

The IPL newcomers are currently in the midst of a dream inception year with six wins from seven games at the halfway stage and are placed on top of the table.

Interestingly, the only loss that Titans suffered in its campaign so far was against Sunrisers in an earlier meeting and Hardik Pandya wouldn't mind a sweet revenge for that defeat.

However, the 'Orange Army's' bowling attack especially their four-prong fast bowling unit has been exceptional as one saw when they demolished RCB for 68 in its previous encounter.

The disconcerting bounce and movement created by Marco Jansen (6 wickets from 5 games) is ably complemented by Umran's (10 wickets from 7 games) fiery pace, T Natarajan's (15 from 7 games) deceptions off the



track and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (9 from 7 games) balancing it all with his experience.

So much so that a lightweight spin department manned by left-arm spinner Jagadeesha Suchith in absence of an injured

Washington Sundar, till now hasn't been a cause of worry for Kane Williamson and his band of men.

In fact, the rub of the green has gone SRH's way in this particular season as they now have five con-

secutive wins from five games where they have chased targets after the bowlers intimidated the rival batting unit.

For Pandya though, his bowling unit is no inferior to SRH as Mohammed Shami's artistry (10 from 7 games) and Ferguson's (9 wickets from 7 games) aggression has brought them a lot of success, not to forget Rashid Khan's (8 wickets from 7 games) ability to be more than decent even in a quiet year by his standards.

However, one area where Titans need to lift their game is Powerplay batting as Shubman Gill (207 from 7 games) has gone off the boil after his 96 and Wriddhiman Saha, replacing Matthew Wade, has been downright mediocre.

In fact, Saha's propensity to waste balls upfront (dismal SR of 83 in 2 games) in both the matches that he played so far has forced skipper Pandya (285 from 6 games) and David Miller (220 from 7 games) to up the ante even before they can take some time to play themselves in.

The chink in Titans armoury is not having a quality keeper-batter for the format as Wade hasn't really had a great time in the first five games that he got and Saha has always

been a player who takes time to settle down before he could play some shots.

There is Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz in the set-up but in order to play him, Titans would have to sacrifice a potent pace bowling option like West Indies pacer Alzarri Joseph, which won't be the most wise thing to do.

Abhinav Manohar and Rahul Tewatia would also like to be more consistent in the finishers' role rather than being like a flash in the pan for a match or two.

However, Titans' bowling attack has the ability to catch the SRH batting unit off-guard considering that it hasn't been tested a lot with young Abhishek Sharma (220 in 7 games) and No.3 batter Rahul Tripathi (212 from 7 games) doing bulk of the scoring in easy chases.

If Titans could breach through the Sunrisers top-order, most of the middle-order batters including the dangerous Nicholas Pooran haven't yet got a decent hit in the middle and the rustiness under pressure could keep Titans interested.

If they manage to upset SRH's rhythm, it will take them closer to play-offs in its maiden year in the championship, no mean achievement in a competition of this class.

Once we get going, KKR will be unstoppable: Iyer



Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTD):

Kolkata Knight Riders are enduring a torrid time this IPL but skipper Shreyas Iyer on Tuesday expressed optimism for a turnaround, saying the former champions would be "unstoppable as a team" once they get into their groove.

KKR have lost five out of eight games, including four on the trot, and are currently placed eighth in the 10-team standings.

"We got off to a really good start with three wins out of four games but after that things didn't go pretty well for us but I still believe in the team," Iyer told the official website of the team.

"We are ticking all the boxes to get on to the field and win matches. It's just the execution part (where we are lacking). It's just a matter of time once we get going, we will be unstoppable as a team," he said. KKR would be looking to emulate their 2021 turnaround when they won five out of their last seven games after managing just two wins in the first seven to storm into the qualifiers and finished as the runner-up side.

## Fleming hopeful of Moeen Ali's recovery

Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTD):

The under-pressure Chennai Super Kings is set to miss their senior pro Moeen Ali for a few more upcoming games due to an ankle injury but head coach Stephen Fleming is hopeful the England all-rounder can make a quick recovery in a week's time.

The England all-rounder had picked up the injury during a training session on Saturday. He missed Monday's game against Punjab Kings, which CSK lost by 11 runs.

He last featured in CSK's three-wicket loss to Gujarat Titans on April 17. "He rolled his ankle, X-Rays revealed there was no fracture but there is always a recovery period maybe seven days. We are hopeful the recovery will be quick given that there is no fracture," Fleming said at the post-match press conference on Monday.

Ali, who was one of the key members in the CSK side that won the title last season, has struggled with the bat and ball both in the ongoing edition of the league.

While Ali has scored 87 runs at an average of 17.40, including a 48 against Sunrisers, he has gone wicketless so far, conceding 68 runs in the eight overs that he has bowled.

CSK have been marred with injuries this season with pacers Deepak Chahar and Adam Milne



already ruled out of the tournament.

On Monday, Ambati Rayudu bruised his hand while fielding in the first innings and needed treatment. The batter then kept CSK in the chase smashing seven boundaries and six sixes in his 39-ball 78 after the top order failed once again.

"The first check was around the break and his hand was bruising. It was just a case of icing that and getting that down and I think a little padding around the glove.

"It was the same hand that was broken sometime back, so it's still pretty tender and a knock like that can obviously cause some damage," Fleming said.

The New Zealander defended the decision to send the out-of-form Ravindra Jadeja ahead of the MS Dhoni, who scripted a memorable three-wicket victory against Mumbai Indians in the previous game. The veteran wicket-keeper batter had hit a six and two fours in the final over to seal the match in CSK's favour.

## We are not getting good starts in first 6 overs: Jadeja

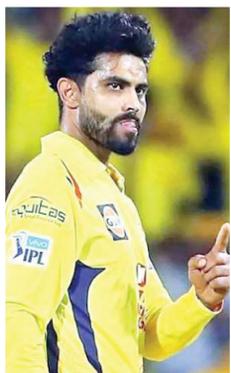
Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTD):

Chennai Super Kings skipper Ravindra Jadeja on Monday blamed his inept batting line-up for their poor result this IPL season, saying the inability to score runs in the first six overs was hurting the team.

CSK slumped to their sixth loss in eight games after going down by 11 runs to Punjab Kings in an IPL thriller here.

Chasing 188, CSK had a woeful start as they slipped to 40 for 3 in seven overs. "We are not getting good starts in the first six overs, that's where we are lacking and hopefully we will come back stronger," Jadeja said after the match.

Ambati Rayudu's 39-ball 78 kept them in the hunt before they could manage 176 for 6 in 20 overs. "He (Rayudu) was batting brilliantly, if we could've re-



stricted them to under 175 it would've been good. We felt we gave away 10-15 runs extra at the end. We did not execute our plans very well," Jadeja said.

With three consecutive sixes and a four from the 16th over bowled by Sandeep Sharma (1/40), Rayudu had kept CSK afloat but Arshdeep Singh conceded just six runs in

the next over and eight in the 19th to tilt the scale towards Punjab.

"I thought Arsh bowled exceedingly well, he has bowled the tough overs, he has been great for us. Even Rabada bowled well, to get Rituraj and get Rayudu at that stage. These two have been great for us," Punjab skipper Mayank Agarwal said.

Rabada, who returned with figures of 2 for 23, also heaped praise on his pace colleague.

"Arsh (Arshdeep) has been the best death bowler in the competition, that's what the stats say. He has got a lot of talent, drive and ambition. And he is just a good bloke. So nice to have him around. I know I am going to bowl at the death," he said.

"Arsh has been magnificent. He has been leading the way in that discipline."

## Badminton Asia Championships

### Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty pair sails to second round

Manila, Apr 26 (PTD):

India's top doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty cruised to the second round of the Badminton Asia Championships with a straight game win here on Tuesday.

The world number 7 and third seeded Indian duo hardly broke a sweat to register a 21-13 21-9 victory against the Thai pair of Apiluk Gaterahong and Natchanon Tulamok in 27 minutes.

Satwik and Chirag will next lock horns with Japan's Akiro Koga and Taichi Saito in the second round. Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto also advanced to the second round of the mixed doubles event. The Indian duo got the better of Hong Kong's Law Cheuk Him and Yeung Nga Ting 21-15 21-17 in half an hour.

However, it was the end of the road for the men's doubles duo of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala. Prasad and Pranjala fought hard but eventually conceded the first round tie to Kang Minhyuk and Kim Wonho of South Korea 10-21 21-19 16-21.

They will take on the winners of the tie between South Korea's Kim Wonho and Jeong Na Eun and the seventh seeded pairing of Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing of Malaysia.

Later in the day, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila will take on fourth seeds Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto of Indonesia in the men's doubles, while the mixed doubles Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhi Dewangan will be pitted against Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeava Oktavianti of Indonesia.

## In India, jealous gang wanted me to fail so I developed thick skin: Ravi Shastri

London, Apr 26 (PTD):

Robert Key will need to grow a "thick skin" akin to the Dukes ball just like I grew one to counter the "jealous people", former India head coach Ravi Shastri said on how the ex-England opener should go out about his job as ECB's 'Director of Cricket'.

Shastri was at helm of India's coaching staff between 2014 to 2021, save one year in the middle when Anil Kumble was given the charge. In an interview to UK's 'The Guardian' newspaper, Shastri said that there was a "gang of people in India" who always wanted him to fail. Just like Shastri, Key has also been an acclaimed commentator for a long time and doesn't have a coaching degree as he tries to ease into a new and very different role.

"I didn't have coaching badges [either]. Level one? Level two? \*\*\*\* that. And in



a country like India, there is always jealousy or a gang of people willing you to fail. I had a thick skin, thicker than the leather of the Dukes ball you use. A real solid hide.

"And you need a bloody hide over here. Rob will develop this as he does the job, because every day you are judged. And I am glad he has a lot of captaincy experience from his time at Kent, because communica-

tion with the players is absolutely paramount," Shastri was quoted as saying by the British newspaper. From his own experience of working with the Indian team, Shastri feels that national teams across the cricketing world function in a pretty similar fashion. "Rob may have more work with the domestic game but, when it comes to the national team, it is very similar. The most important thing is getting among the players and setting a tone from the outset: what you believe in, what you think of them and changing the mindset to compete and win.

"You have to be bullish and brutish in wanting to achieve that. For us, and now England, it was about setting the challenge of winning abroad, big time. I was very firm when it came to team culture: all the prima donnas and all that shit, that had to go out of the window early," Shastri explained.

## Benfica ends 60-year European wait with Youth League title



Benficas team players celebrate the victory with the trophy after the victory during the UEFA Youth League final soccer match between S.L. Benfica Juniors from Portugal and FC Salzburg U-19 from Austria, at the stadium Colovray Sports Centre, in Nyon, Switzerland.

Nyon (Switzerland), Apr 26 (AP):

Benfica is a European champion again 60 years and 11 losing finals after the storied Portuguese soccer club's last title in a UEFA competition.

Playing on Monday in its fourth final of the UEFA Youth League, Benfica routed Salzburg 6-0 to claim the trophy.

Benfica's last European win was the European Cup in 1962, retaining the

trophy the Lisbon club won for the first time the previous year.

The six decades since saw Benfica beaten in the final five times in the European Cup, once in the UEFA Cup, twice in the Europa League, and three times in the UEFA Youth League that began play in 2013. According to club lore, the long losing streak was because of a curse by B la Guttman, the coach who left Benfica on bad

terms after masterminding the two European Cup titles. One of those Youth League losses was to Salzburg in the 2017 final.

The Austrian team was swept aside on Monday after Benfica led within 90 seconds through Martin Neto. Henrique Ara jo's hat trick, completed from the penalty spot in the 89th minute, was wrapped around goals by Italian youth international Cher N'Dour and Luis Semedo.

## Santosh Trophy is good platform to grab attention of big clubs: IM Vijayan

Mallapuram, Apr 26 (PTD):

IM Vijayan catapulted into instant stardom with his exploits in Santosh Trophy more than 30 years ago and the legendary former India captain wishes the same for the players of semi-finalists taking part in the 75th edition of the National Football Championship.

Hosts Kerala will play Karnataka in the first semi-final on Thursday while Bengal is pitted against Manipur in the second semi-final on Friday.

"All the players have a chance to prove themselves, especially the ones that have made it to the semifinal so far. This is one of the most prestigious tournaments in India, and they will be trying to prove themselves and catch the eyes of the top clubs," Vijayan, the greatest Indian footballer to have emerged from the state, told IFFI.com.

In fact, East Bengal club has sent its former stars Alvaro D'Cunha and Sathi Duley as talent spotters.



Santosh Trophy has been a big hit in Kerala with hosts game against Bengal being watched by a capacity crowd. "There have been so many fans that have come to enjoy the matches as Santosh Trophy is being held in Malappuram for the first time. Kerala fans are different, they are special. "I have seen them support me even when I played for Mohun Bagan against Kerala Police. I have also played for Bengal and missed a penalty in a tie-breaker against Kerala back when late VP Sathiyam was the captain. Kerala lost that match, but fans here still recall that game."

## Kean's winner moves Juventus closer to the Champions League

Reggio Emilia, Apr 26 (IAP):

Moise Kean's 89th-minute winner earned Juventus a 2-1 comeback win in a tricky visit to a talented Sassuolo side, marking a major step in Serie A for the Bianconeri toward securing a Champions League spot.

Kean, a substitute, controlled a pass with his back to the goal then turned his defender before shooting in through the goalkeeper's legs.

With four matches remaining, fourth-placed Juventus moved within one point of third-placed Napoli and eight points ahead of fifth-placed Roma with the top four qualifying for the Champions League.

Sassuolo, which features Italy forwards Domenico Berardi, Giacomo Raspadori and Gianluca Scamacca, had its range on full display when it took the lead in the 39th.

Berardi used his heel to flick on a through ball from Georgios Kyriakopoulos



Juventus' Italian forward Moise Kean celebrates scoring his team's second goal during the Italian Serie A football match between Sassuolo and Juventus at the Citta del Tricolore stadium in Reggio Emilia.

and Raspadori pounded it in from a sharp angle.

Raspadori became the first Italian player born since 2000 to score 10 goals in a single Serie A.

Juventus equalized six minutes later with a solo display of talent from Paulo Dybala, who un-

leashed a quickfire strike that was clocked at 110 kph (68 mph), which Sassuolo's defense appeared unprepared for.

It was Dybala's 81st goal in Serie A with Juventus, matching Cristiano Ronaldo for 10th place on the club scoring list.

## 'Depriving farmers of livelihood is violation of Constitution'

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

Depriving farmers of their livelihood and property without the authority of law would be a violation of the Constitution, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday.

A bench of justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Vikram Nath said there is no justification for not paying compensation to farmers for widening of roads.

"Construction or widening of road no doubt would be a public purpose but there being no justification for not paying compensation, the action of the respondents would be arbitrary, unreasonable and clearly violative of Article 300A of the Constitution," the bench said.

The top court's judgment came on a plea filed by eight farmers against a Kerala High Court judgment that dismissed their appeals.

The appellants are the owners of the land in dis-

pute, measuring 1.7078 hectares. According to the appellants, the panchayat had requested them to let their land be utilised for the construction or widening of the Sulthan Batheri Bypass road and they were assured that they would be given adequate compensation for the land.

However, no compensation was paid when the road was constructed, they said.

The appellants made various representations since the construction was going on and even after it was completed, but when no heed was paid to their request, they approached the high court.

The apex court said the appellants are farmers and the land utilised in this case was agricultural land.

"It was part of their livelihood. Depriving them of their livelihood and also of their property without authority of law would be violative of Article 21 and Article 300A of the Constitution," it

said. The top court said Article 300A, though not a fundamental right, has the status of being a constitutional or a statutory right.

"It provides that no citizen would be deprived of his property save without authority of law. Depriving somebody of his property, where it is land, can be made by a number of modes, for example by acquisition, surrender or by transfer and other facets also.

"In the present case, it being utilised for the road to be owned by the panchayat or municipality, it could either have been voluntarily surrendered, transferred by way of title deeds or by way of acquisition as may be provided under the statute," the bench said.

The apex court said to say that there was a substantial delay on the part of the appellants in agitating for their rights would not be correct.

It said the sole question for consideration would be as to whether the appel-

lants had voluntarily surrendered their land to the panchayat free of cost, without raising any claim for compensation.

"The panchayat as also the Public Works Department have failed to produce a single piece of document or evidence in any other form in support of their defence that the appellants have surrendered their land voluntarily.

"The consistent stand of the appellants, on the other hand, has been that they have not given their land to the panchayat voluntarily and that they would be suitably compensated," the bench said.

The top court said Article 300A clearly mandates that no person shall be deprived of his property save by the authority of law.

"In the present case, we do not find, under which authority of law, the land of the appellants was taken and they were deprived of the same.

## CBSE -TERM 2 EXAM



Students appear in the term 2 CBSE examinations for class 10, at an examination centre in Agartala, Tuesday.

## End politics of hate, ex-bureaucrats tell Modi

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI): Over 100 former civil servants have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a hope that he will call for an end to what they termed as "politics of hate" allegedly practised "assiduously" by governments under BJP's control. In an open letter, they said "we are witnessing a frenzy of hate filled destruction in the country where at the sacrificial altar are not just Muslims and members of the other minority communities but the Constitution itself". Former Lt Governor of National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon, ex-foreign secretary Sujatha Singh, former home secretary G K Pillai and former prime minister Manmohan Singh's principal secretary T K A Nair are among

the 108 signatories to the letter. As former civil servants, it is not normally our want to express ourselves in such extreme terms, but the relentless pace at which the constitutional edifice created by our founding fathers is being destroyed compels us to speak out and express our anger and anguish, the letter said.

The escalation of hate violence against the minority communities, particularly Muslims, in the last few years and months across several states - Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, all states in which the BJP is in power, barring Delhi (where the union government controls the police) - has acquired a frightening new dimension, it said.

## HC for trial court judgment in former PM Rajiv Gandhi murder case

Chennai, Apr 26 (PTI):

The first bench of the Madras High Court on Tuesday called for a copy of the order of the Tada Court in Poonamallee, which had passed an order on January 28, 1998 imposing death sentence to all the 26 accused in the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated at an election public meeting organised by the Congress party at Sriperumbudur in the night of May 21, 1991. After a prolonged day-to-day trial for over six years, the trial court in Poonamallee delivered the judgment running to more than 1,000

pages in January 1998, imposing death sentence on all the 26 accused, including Nalini, her husband Sri Haran alias Murugan and A G Perarivalan and four others. The first bench of Chief Justice M N Bhandari and Justice D Bharatha Chakravarthy sought for a copy of the judgment today, when Nalini's petition seeking premature release, even without the consent of the State Governor, came up for further hearing. The bench wanted to know under what provisions of the TADA Act, Nalini was convicted and sentenced to death penalty (later commuted to life). The previous AIADMK cabinet in

September 2018, had passed a resolution and forwarded its recommendation to the then Governor to order the premature release of all the seven life convicts, under Article 161 of the Constitution. As there was no response from the Governor, Nalini and others had filed several petitions in the High Court for a direction to the Governor to consider their plea. But they were all rejected by the High Court.

Hence, Nalini filed the present writ petition praying the court to order her release even without the consent of the Governor. It was way back on 28 Jan, 1998, all the 26 accused

were sentenced to death by the Poonamallee TADA Court. On an appeal, on May 11, 1999, the Supreme Court had upheld the death sentence of four — Murugan, Nalini, Santhan and Perarivalan, commuted to life for three — Ravichandran, Robert Payas and Jayakumar and acquitted the remaining 19 accused, including photographer Subha Sundaram.

Upon the intervention of Rajiv Gandhi's widow and the then Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who petitioned for clemency for the sake of Nalini's daughter, the death sentence of Nalini was commuted to life imprisonment in April, 2000.

## India, Maldives plan transmission interconnection

For transfer of renewable power

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

India and Maldives plan to set up a transmission interconnection for transfer of renewable power between the two countries.

The proposal was discussed during the meeting between Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh and Maldives' Environment, Climate Change and Technology Minister Aminath Shauna in the national capital on Tuesday. Singh appreciated the resolve of Maldives government to achieve net zero emission target by 2030, according to a power ministry statement. During the meeting, both

leaders proposed two Memoranda of Understanding — on energy cooperation and on transmission interconnection under One Sun, One World, One Grid (OS-OWOG).

To facilitate Maldives' energy transition programme, a transmission interconnection for renewable power transfer has been proposed, the statement said.

A draft agreement is being prepared for the MoU on transmission interconnection under which a technical team from India would visit Maldives to assess the technical feasibility of the project.

## AZADI KI AMRIT KAHANIYAN



India's first woman firefighter Harshini Kanhekar (L), Anshu Jamsenpa (C), mountaineer and first woman in the world to scale summit of Mount Everest twice in a season, and environmentalist Basanti Devi, during the launch of 'Azadi ki Amrit Kahaniyan', a short video collection in collaboration with Netflix, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

## Amid scorching heat, parts of Mumbai, suburbs face power outage

Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTI):

Tripping at an important substation feeding power to the megapolis led to a power cut of over one hour in many parts of the country's financial capital on Tuesday, aggravating woes for people already battling sweltering heat amid a heat wave.

Lines at the Padgha substation located near Kalyan tripped at about 10 am, leading to a cascading impact that resulted in power disruption in large parts of the city, and adjoining parts in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. The power outage comes at a time when

Maharashtra is reeling under a power deficit of 3,500 MW, which has resulted in the state discom being forced to carry out 'load shedding' or compulsory power cuts in pockets to manage the demand-supply situation and safeguard the grid.

Typically, pockets in the city and well-paying consumers in the adjoining areas do not face such load shedding, but there have been at least two instances in recent past where large scale disruptions did happen.

The financial capital had faced a power outage on October 12, 2020, which took up to 18 hours to get fully restored, while there was another

incident in February this year on a weekend, which had also led to temporary stoppage of the suburban train services, considered as the city's lifeline.

Areas in central Mumbai like Mahim and Dadar reported power outages from 10 AM, along with suburbs like Mulund and Bhandup, which are serviced by the state discom.

Adjoining areas of Thane, Kalyan-Dombivili, Ambernath, Bhiwandi, Navi Mumbai and parts of the Palghar district also suffered as the load management in the face of disrupted supply led to suspension of supply, officials said.

## Solar, lunar eclipses on April 30, May 16 to elude city

Kolkata, Apr 26 (PTI):

There will be a partial solar eclipse on April 30 and a total lunar eclipse on May 16 but neither of the two celestial phenomena will be visible from the city and its neighbourhood, astrophysicist Debi Prasad Duari said.

The city will, however, be able to witness the next partial solar eclipse on October 25 and the partial lunar eclipse on November 8, he said.

The April 30 partial solar eclipse will be seen from the south and south-western parts of South America, Pacific and Atlantic oceans and most of the land mass of Antarctica but will not be

visible from this part of the world, the former director of M P Birla Planetarium said. "People in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia or in Antarctica can see the phenomenon. The solar eclipse always starts at one location and because of the spinning of the Earth ends at another location," he said in a statement on Sunday. The partial solar eclipse will begin around 6.45 p m universal time which will be May 1, 00:15 a m IST. The maximum for India will be around 2.1 a m on May 1 and end at 4.07 a m. As it will be night time in this country, no one will see the cosmic event, he explained.

## RLY BOARD to GMS

## 'Expense on manpower unsustainable; surrender posts, redeploy, outsource'

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

With 67 per cent of its expenditure on manpower becoming "unsustainable", the Railway Board has issued instructions to the zones to identify and surrender posts that have become redundant due to technology. The employees in such posts should be redeployed where there is a need for manpower and, if required, some of the work can be outsourced, the board has said.

In a letter written to the general managers of all the railway zones, V K Tripathi, CEO and Chairman, Railway Board,

has said such posts should be identified and the redeployment of staff should be done within a month.

"Human resources are very valuable to Indian Railways. This is especially so during present times when 67 per cent expenditure is towards manpower and is showing an increasing trend, which in the long term seems unsustainable for the organisation. "It is imperative that the manpower is utilised effectively, efficiently and wherever essentially required. Therefore, there is a need to rationalise manpower utilisation to improve organisational agili-

ty," Tripathi has said in the letter to the GMs. He has also said employees working in categories where manpower is underutilised and non-essential can be "redeployed to more essential categories where vacancies exist and the work may be outsourced, if required". He has identified some of the categories — bearer, assistant cook, watcher, typist, sanitary helper, duffry, carpenter, painter, assistant bellow boy, laskar, gardener, assistant catering or salesman, catering or kitchen assistant, assistant catering vendor, valveman etc. Tripathi has pointed out

that employees are still deployed in the zonal railways in categories that have become redundant due to changes in technology, process or policy, like boiler shops and forging shops. "Employees in such categories may be suitably redeployed in categories where manpower is needed. Manpower deployed in categories that are low skilled and have low promotion prospects, like store khalasi, painter, carpenter etc. can also be considered for redeployment to those areas, where they are more needed and with better prospects," he has said.

## KHARGONE VIOLENCE

## Video calling for boycott of one community surfaces

Khargone, Apr 26 (PTI):

Days after communal violence rocked Madhya Pradesh's Khargone town, a video featuring a purported call to boycott members of a particular community has surfaced, leading the police to file a case against unidentified persons, officials said on Tuesday, while a second video shows local BJP MP Gajendra Patel goading people to give a 'tit for tat' reply to those who pelted stones during Ram Navami celebrations.

In the first clip, which went viral on social media, an announcement made on a truck-mounted sound system was heard giving the call to boycott the community members, accusing them of spreading violence in the town, which saw arson and stone pelting

● **BJP MP warns stone pelters** during Ram Navami celebrations on April 10 and where the curfew was relaxed for nine hours. Khargone's in-charge Superintendent of Police Rohit Kashwani said after they came across the video, a case was registered on Monday night against unidentified persons on charge of spreading enmity between different groups.

Karahi police station in-charge Parmanand Goyal said the case was registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony). The police came to know about the video on Monday night and its

content was being investigated and people involved were being identified, he said. He said as per preliminary information, the announcement purportedly heard in the video was made on April 19 in Katargaon, located nearly 60 km from the district headquarters. The announcer was heard requesting Hindus to boycott the "adharmi" (impious) and "pakhandi" (hypocrite) shopkeepers and give them a befitting reply while accusing them of stone pelting during a Ram Navami procession and burning the houses of Hindus in Khargone. Another video has also surfaced in which a group of women was purportedly seen taking a resolve to financially boycott "vidharmis" (heretic) by not purchasing from their shops and not selling stuff to them.



### BRIEF



Devotees visit shrine of Sheikh Baba Dawood (RA), popularly known as Batamaloo Sahab, during its annual Urs festival, at Batamaloo in Srinagar, Tuesday.

### Fire

**New Delhi:** A fire broke out at a shop and spread to other stores in Amar Colony's main market in Lajpat Nagar of southeast Delhi on Tuesday, Delhi Fire Officials said. No injuries due to the fire were reported, they said. A call about the fire was received at 2.40 pm, a senior fire official said.

### Grenade

**Srinagar:** Militants on Tuesday lobbed a grenade on a bus carrying CRPF personnel in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir but there was no damage done, officials said. The ultras hurled the grenade at the CRPF bus at Brazloo in Kulgam, the officials said. They said the grenade landed and exploded on the roadside and did not cause any damage.

### Lifer

**Thane:** A court in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced a 64-year-old man and his son to imprisonment for life for murdering the latter's wife. District and sessions judge K D Jadhav found Hari Nama Kavate and his son Malu (32) guilty of the offence registered under section 302 (murder) of the IPC and sentenced them to imprisonment for life and imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on them.

### Oath

**Lucknow:** The 36 new members of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, who were recently elected from local authority constituencies, took oath here on Tuesday. UP Legislative Council chairman Kunwar Manvendra Singh administered the oath of office to the newly elected members. All the members took oath in Hindi, while some of them raised the slogan of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai" after the oath-taking ceremony.

### Suspend

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan government on Tuesday suspended IAS officer Nannumal Pahadia and RAS officer Ashok Kumar Sankhla who were arrested in a bribery case in Alwar district, officials said. As per a directive issued by the Department of Personnel, Pahadia and Sankhla have been suspended from April 23 and they will have to report at the principal secretary, department of the personnel office, at the Secretariat in Jaipur.

**Weather**  
High 42 Low 28

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 17,200.80  
SENSEX 57,356.61

**BULLION**  
GOLD 51,660  
SILVER 65,169

### ANTI-PARTY ACTIVITIES

## Cong panel recommends suspension of Jakhar for 2 yrs

■ Removes KV Thomas from party posts

**New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):**

The Congress Disciplinary Committee on Tuesday recommended the suspension of its former Punjab unit chief Sunil Jakhar for two years and the removal of Kerala leader K V Thomas from all party positions for anti-party activities, sources said. The panel has also recommended that



Sunil Jakhar K V Thomas

Jakhar was removed from all party posts. The disciplinary committee of the Congress, which met here on Tuesday morning, also recommended the suspension of five party MLAs in

Meghalaya, who had supported the ruling Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) in the state, while defying the party's directives. The committee has given its recommendations to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who will take necessary action soon, the sources pointed out. The five-member committee is chaired by senior party leader A K Antony and Tuesday's meeting was attended by panel members Tariq Anwar, J P

Aggarwal and G Parameswar, besides Antony. Ambika Soni was not present during the meeting. Soon after the Congress disciplinary panel's recommendations, Jakhar wished his party "good luck" while refusing to reveal his own plans. "I wish the Congress good luck," Jakhar said when reporters sought his reaction to the panel's recommendation. He refused to comment when asked what would be his next step.

### KV ADMISSIONS

## Centre scraps MP quota, issues revised guidelines

**New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):**

The Centre has scrapped the discretionary Member of Parliament quota for admissions to Kendriya Vidyalayas, according to the revised admission guidelines issued by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

The move comes weeks after the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) put on hold all discretionary quotas, including the MP quota, for admissions to various central schools across the

country, following a review. The government has also decided that children orphaned due to COVID-19 will be considered for admission over and above the class strength in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) under PM CARES for Children Scheme.

The admission will be done on the basis of a list given by the district magistrate, subject to 10 children per Kendriya Vidyalaya. The admissions for the 2022-23 academic session is underway till June.

### MHA REPORT

## 'Violence, deaths by Naxals reduced significantly'

**New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):**

The violence perpetrated by the Naxals has been reduced by 41 per cent and deaths by 54 per cent in the country in 2020 as compared to 2013 and the arc of such incidents has been considerably restricted with just 30 districts accounting 88 per cent of all Maoists violence.

According to the annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2020-21, the Naxal violence was reported from 226 police stations in 53 districts spread

across nine states in 2020 as compared to 328 police stations in 76 districts spread over 10 states in 2013.

The last six years have seen a significant decline in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) violence as well as the geographical spread of the LWE. The declining trend which started in 2011 continues in 2020 as well.

There has been an overall 41 per cent reduction in violent incidents (1,136 to 665) and 54 per cent reduction (397 to 183) in LWE related deaths in 2020 as

## Naxalites attack CRPF camp, fire BGL rockets

**Konta, Apr 26:**

Naxalites suddenly attacked the Potkapalli camp of the security forces of CRPF at around 10 pm in Potkapalli, a Naxal-affected area of Konta block in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh. The Naxalites fired BGL rockets to damage the camp, but when the soldiers posted on the front retaliated immediately, the Naxalites fled from there. According to the information, Potkapalli camp of Konta block where Naxalites attacked from the forest at around 10 pm. To damage the camp, BGL bombs were fired, about 4 to 5 bombs fell on the camp but no one was harmed. At the same time, when the soldiers posted on the front immediately retaliated, the Naxalites fled from there.

## Prashant Kishor refuses to join Cong, says it needs leadership

**New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):**

Poll strategist Prashant Kishor on Tuesday declined the Congress offer to join the party and evolve its poll strategy and said more than him, the party needs leadership and collective will to fix deep-rooted structural problems through transformational reforms.

Kishor was asked by Congress president Sonia Gandhi to join the party and be a part of the Empowered Action Group-2024 and take care of its election strategy for upcoming polls. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said Kishor has declined the offer and the party appreciates his efforts and suggestions.



Kishor had made a detailed presentation before top Congress leaders, which was discussed at length by senior leadership of the party, after which an offer was made to him. Within a few minutes of the Congress saying that Kishor has declined the offer, he took to Twitter and said the party needs a collective will to fix deep-rooted structural problems through reforms.

### ASSAULT CASE

## Mevani sent to 5-day police custody

**Barpeta, Apr 26 (PTI):**

Dalit leader and independent Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani was remanded to five days in police custody on Tuesday by a court in Assam's Barpeta district in an assault case filed by a woman police officer.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Mukul Chetia remanded Mevani to police custody when he was produced in his court in the afternoon. This is the second case filed against the Dalit leader from Gujarat in

Assam. Mevani's lawyer Angshuman Bora said they will move the court for bail on Thursday.

The Gujarat MLA had earlier on Monday been released on bail by a court in Kokrajhar in another case related to a tweet by him on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, only to be re-arrested in a case slapped on him for assaulting a policewoman who claimed that he assaulted her while he was being brought by a police posse from Guwahati to Kokrajhar.

## Covaxin cleared for 6-12 age group, Corbevax for 5-12 yrs old

**New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):**

India's drug regulator has granted restricted emergency use authorisation for Biological E's COVID-19 vaccine Corbevax for those aged five to 12 years and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for chil-

dren in the age group of six to 12 years, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday. The approval by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for Corbevax and Covaxin for inoculating children below 12 years paves the way for giving

protection to a majority of school going children and assumes significance ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with chief ministers on the emerging COVID-19 situation in the country on Wednesday through video conferencing.

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# Demand at Jandarshan to protect trees planted by Late Gendlal Deshmukh

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

Environment lovers of the district on Tuesday reached the Collector Jandarshan and submitted an appeal to protect the trees planted by Late Gendlal Deshmukh. An environment protector to the core, late Gendlal Deshmukh planted around 300 saplings of Banyan, Peepal, Neem etc from Kodia to Maharaja Chowk in Durg.

Those have now grown up to towering trees but there is a possibility of those being cut for the road construction proposed by the Public Works Department. Environment lovers submitted suggestion that an alternative route can be selected by the department nearby so that there is a minimum possibility of cutting trees. Among the environment lovers who met the Collector were Romshankar Yadav convener of Hitwa Sangwari and Lalit Verma, Vipin Verma of Harit Kranti Sangh, Risali. In this regard, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure directed the officers to choose such options for widening the road in which there is a possibility of either no cutting of trees or minimum cutting of trees.

Many citizens are playing active role in the cause

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

of society. These citizens are engaged in making unique experiments to bring the benefits of Jandarshan to the general public and are submitting applications related to public concerns here. Under this, an applicant also applied before the Collector seeking Lok Sewa Kendra based on the population of the area. The applicant says that in the present scenario having identity card is very important for every person.

Whether it is to fill the form or to take advantage of the government scheme, it is necessary for everyone to have identity card such as Aadhar card

or other such cards. The Lok Seva Kendra remains closed on every Saturday, but in view of the population density, if such centres are opened on this day also, it will be convenient for the citizens. The collector took the application and sent it to the concerned officer and ordered for speedy redressal.

A person from Khursipar had reached the Collector Jandarshan regarding the problem related to BPL ration card that he faced. In the application he mentioned that a few months ago a camp was organized to collect application for BPL and APL ration card in his ward. He also applied for

BPL Had ration card, but his card could not be made. When the applicant sought information regarding this from the Municipal Corporation, the Municipal Corporation informed that his name was not mentioned in the survey list. The applicant says that in the survey conducted in his area, he and his family had given their details, and he also has acknowledgment is with him. Even after submitting this acknowledgment, his problem is not getting resolved. In the absence of the card, apart from ration, the applicant and his family are deprived of other government schemes, so he sought for redressal from the collector.

The Collector sent the matter to the concerned officer and directed for speedy disposal. Applications related to demarcation etc have also come in Jandarshan. The Collector directed for effective disposal of all the applications.

# Knowledge Sharing Session organised at HRDD

Retiring CGM shares his Rich Experience with Younger Generation of Employees in Coke Ovens & Coal Chemicals Dept

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

A knowledge sharing session was organized by CO&CCD in association with Safety Engineering Department (SED) and Human Resource Development Department (HRDD) to share knowledge and experience of CGM (CO & CCD) GA Rao who will be superannuated next month. The program was held in presence of senior officers of CO & CCD, SED and HRDD in the Mini Conference Hall of HRDD on April 26, 2022.

The program of knowledge sharing session was based on Introduction to chemical hazards with case studies and relevant section of Factory Act, confined space hazards and mitigation, experience of handling emergency situations in CO &



CCD with case studies from across the entire steel plant. CO & CCD has for the first time taken this kind of initiative to minimize the knowledge gap between the older and young generation.

Rao shared his life time experience in such a manner, presenting real life case studies one by one of incidents, near miss cases, accidents, breakdowns and observation that all the participants were absorbed throughout the session. Several participants expressed their desire for organising more such interactions.

In inaugural session, Sanjay Aggarwal, GM

(SED) thanked CO&CCD collective for taking such steps for knowledge sharing towards creating safe working atmosphere. S Roychoudhury, Rakesh Joshi, B Paswan, S K Haldhar were present in the session along with other officers and workers.

At the concluding session, Sanjay Dhar, CGM (HRD&BE) highlighted the need for sharing and thereby transferring GA Rao's rich and vast knowledge not only to the younger generation but also the entire coke and steel making fraternity. The program was coordinated by Ajay Tallo, Mrg SED and BC Mandal, DSO (CO&CCD).

# SRJS youth wing president Manish visits Delhi

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

Shri Ram Janmotsav Samiti's youth wing president Manish Pandey recently visited New Delhi and during his stay he met top leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party and discussed various issues of Bhilai. During this, he also detailed about the activities of Shri Ram Janmotsav Samiti in bringing religious awareness and works of public interest. The leaders praised the committee and extended their best wishes for future activities.

Manish said that during his stay in Delhi, he had a courtesy call on BJP's National General Secretary and Chhattisgarh in-charge D Purandeshwari and National Spokesperson Sambit Patra.

During this, he gave information about various programs related to public interest including Dharma Jagran Pakhwada organized by Shri Ram Janmotsav Samiti. He also provided elaborate detail about the Sri Ram Navami program organized by the committee for the last 36 years. After that, various subjects and political situations of the state including Bhilai were also discussed.

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# Progress of Hemchand Yadav University is commendable: Governor

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

On the completion of seven years of the establishment of Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, the Governor of Chhattisgarh Anusuiya Uikay said that the progress made by the University in every field is commendable. Despite limited resources, officers and staff this University has performed its functions at par with other big universities of the state. The Governor was releasing a souvenir focused on the successful seven-year journey of Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, "Seven Years Pleasant Journey of the University from 2015 to 2022" at a function held at Raj Bhavan, Raipur on Tuesday. Praising the achievements of the University in the last seven years, the Governor congratulated the Vice



Chancellor of the University, Dr Aruna Palta, Registrar Bhupendra Kuldeep and all other officers and employees present at the function. The Governor suggested said that from the new academic session, the university should also start teaching-learning system. Giving information in this regard, Vice Chancellor, Dr Aruna Palta said that a detailed proposal has been sent to

the Higher Education Department, Government of Chhattisgarh which is under consideration in the Higher Education Department. As soon as the approval in this regard is received from the Higher Education Department, action will be taken accordingly. The Governor also discussed about the delay in the completion of the construction work of the University building and said that she

herself would instruct the officials of the Public Works Department to complete the work at the earliest.

Vice Chancellor Dr Palta and Registrar Bhupendra Kuldeep jointly informed the Governor that at present, 2,22,000 students have appeared online in the examinations of Hemchand Yadav University, Durg including regular and private students. Most of the 143 col-

leges in the five districts of Balod, Bemetara, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Kabirdham under the university are involved in the process of NAAC evaluation. Under the university, there is one college with A grade and one private college with A grade. Apart from these, four colleges have recently got B grade. The university has signed MoUs with five national level institutions in the interest of students. In the field of NSS,

NCC, and sports, the university has made its mark at the national level. Under the university, five professors from different colleges have got international patents. The University has organized useful webinars and other activities online even during the Covid-19 transition period. More than a thousand video lectures are available for the students on the official website of the university.

Also present at the ceremony organized at Raj Bhavan, were officers of Raj Bhavan, Dean of the University Student Welfare, Dr Prashant Srivastava, Deputy Registrar Dr Rajmani Patel, Rajendra Chauhan, NSS Coordinator Dr RP Agarwal, Sports Director Dr Lalit Prasad Verma, Assistant Registrar Dr Sumit Agarwal, Himanshu Shekhar Mandavi and others.

# Light, Sound & Laser Show on Saint Mother Teresa wins much appreciation

**Bhilai, Apr 25:**

A unique Light Sound and Laser show based on the biography of Bharat Ratna Saint Mother Teresa was organized in the auditorium of Sree Narayana Guru Dharma Samajam (SNGDS) School Sector-4 on April 24. The show presented under the direction of Supriyo Sen in a packed hall was highly appreciated by the special guests and audience.

Chief guest, Archbishop Dr Henry Thakur, Raipur Archdiocese, in his address, referring to the speech given by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh at Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi during the program organized in the consecration ceremony of Saint Mother Teresa, said that Alexander came here to attack and win-but he did not succeed, while Mother Teresa came to India to win the hearts of the people and she ruled the hearts of millions and crores of people not only in India but around the world. He also honoured 9 (Nine) Sister from Missionaries of Charity, Bilaspur, Raipur & Bhilai by presenting Shawl & Shreefal. Arun Vora, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Warehouse Corporation and Durg MLA who was present as special guest said that Mother Teresa was the

epitome of humanity in true sense. Recollecting a two day visit by Mother Teresa, he said that we were fortunate to have had Mother Teresa here to spread message of humanity residents. He said that this show should be staged in every school so that children can become familiar with the service



best wishes to the organisers and promised to attend the next show. At the outset, Father John Vettiyolil of Raipur, who translated the drama in Hindi, welcomed the guests. He especially thanked TM Abraham for writing a drama on Mother Teresa in Malayalam. He specifically mentioned that the show has been composed

Sen and his team as well as Dr T Unnikrishnan, VK Sundaresh, eminent bhajan singer Prabhanjay Chaturvedi, Ullas Kumar, Sunil Johnson, Anthony Francis, Ravindra Nath Gautami Chakraborty and others. Proposing the vote of thanks, Lawrence Sylvester specially thanked the Sree Narayana Dharmaguru Samajam Sansthan and all the sponsors. Other guests on this occasion were Dhiraj Bakliwal, Mayor, Durg, Rev Thomas Ramban, MGM Cathedral, VK Mohammed, Ex-President, SNGDS, and Shiju Antony, General Secretary, Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee, Sister Stephany, Sister Superior, Missionaries of Charity Bilaspur. Dilip Mohanty, President (HR) Jaysawals NECO Industries, Shipping Corporation of India's Ex-Director Personal SPS Jaggi, Bhilai Steel Plant Ex-General Manager Incharge P&A Madhuri Menon, YMCA Bhilai President TK Joseph, Vijay Dhawala, Managing Director, Dhawalas Bhilai, PRN Pillai, Ex-President, Malayala Granthshala, President of SNGDS VK Babu and Sister of Missionaries of Charity Bhilai, Bilaspur and Raipur were specially present.

# Bar & Rod Mill creates New Production Record

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Modex Unit, Bar & Rod Mill has once again created a new day record as well as shift record. On April 25, 2022, Bar & Rod Mill set a new day record by rolling out 1562 billets to produce 3218 Tonnes of TMT 16 mm Bars, surpassing the previous best of 1476 billets rolled and 3035 T of TMT 16 mm Bars on March 20, 2022. A new shift record was also created by BRM. As many as 614 billets were rolled in C shift on April 25, 2022 with 1265 T production of TMT 16 recorded. The previous best shift record was set a couple of days earlier on April 23, 2022 with 580 billets rolled in C Shift and 1195 T production of TMT 16 recorded. Mukesh Gupta, CGM (BRM) congratulated the entire BRM team for the record-breaking performance.



# DGP puts rank insignia on newly promoted IGP BN Meena

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

Director General of Police Ashok Juneja and Additional Director General of Police (Administration and Selection) Himanshu Gupta pinned rank insignia on the newly promoted Inspector General of Police Badri Narayan Meena during a simple ceremony held at Police Headquarters in Raipur on Tuesday. Badri Narayan Meena has been promoted and positioned as Inspector General of Police (Durg Range).



Jha and Risali Mayor Shashi Sinha who could not attend the event due to various reasons, sent their

by Pushpa Ambrose, General Manager, SMS-3, BSP. He also thanked the show's director Supriyo

## Undisputed mutation cases be resolved at earliest: Baghel

**CM reviews works of revenue department**

**Special drive should be run for the matters related to the rectification of land records**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 26: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has given instructions for early disposal of pending revenue cases of undisputed mutations and divisions during the review of works of Revenue Department at his residence office here today. He said that the cases related to demarcation of land should be disposed of by 31st May, as well as the cases related to rectification of land records should be resolved in two months by running a special drive. This includes pending cases like map allocation, record rectification.

He has instructed to ensure the presence of



Patwaris at the headquarters and to fill vacant posts in tehsils soon. Revenue Minister Jaisingh Agarwal, Chief Secretary NN Ekka, Director Land Records Dharmesh Sahu, Deputy Secretary to Chief Minister Soumya Chaurasia, Director Public Relations Saumil Ranjan Choubey were present in the meeting.

Officers gave information about the resolution of revenue cases and vari-

ous schemes of the revenue department during the review meeting. Chief Minister Baghel said that Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumihin Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana is a unique scheme in the country in which landless laborers are being provided an assistance of Rs 7000 annually. The beneficiaries to whom the amount is being given should be informed at the gram panchayat level before getting the amount and written information should be given at the time of payment of

each installment, he emphasized.

The Chief Minister directed the Revenue Secretary to write a letter to the collectors to resolve the cases of undisputed mutations, division, demarcation, diversion within the time limit. The Chief Minister directed to expedite the work of granting land owner rights to the beneficiaries in Nazool and Slum Pattas. He said that a letter should also be sent to the collectors in this regard.

It was informed in the meeting that after visiting the rural areas, the commissioners are meeting the villagers directly and taking information regarding the status of settlement of revenue cases. The Chief Minister appreciated this initiative taken by the commissioners for speedy disposal of revenue cases. He said that allotment, settlement, freeholding and settlement of land rent cases up to 7500 square feet should be reviewed by the commissioners during their visit to districts and reports should be sent to

the state government. Similarly, he directed to update the information about the distribution of abadi pattas in rural and urban areas. The Chief Minister said that basic facilities should be provided in tehsil offices and good seating arrangements should be made for the employees and beneficiaries. While reviewing the status of redressal of cases of felling of trees, the Chief Minister said that the rules for felling trees on land owned by the land owners have been simplified by the State Government.

According to this the land owner will have to inform the SDM in the prescribed form for the cutting of trees planted on his own land. If the trees have grown naturally, then the land owner will have to obtain written permission from the SDM for the felling of such trees. The time limit for granting permission has also been fixed. The Chief Minister directed to promote these amendments made in the rules so that the needy people can get the benefit of it.

### 'SELECTION'



Girls selecting toys of 'Gudda-Gudiya' for the festival and ritual of Akshay Tritiya' here on Tuesday.

## Ch'garh logs six COVID-19 cases, no fatality

Raipur, Apr 26: Chhattisgarh on Monday reported six fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the state's tally to 11,52,241. The death toll remained unchanged at 14,034 as no fresh fatality was reported due to the viral infection, an official said. The positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, stood at 0.12 per cent, he said.

The overall recovery count in Chhattisgarh rose to 11,38,184, leaving the state with 23 active cases, he said. "Balrampur recorded two cases followed by one in Bilaspur among other districts. No new coronavirus cases were reported in 23 districts. As of Monday, no active cases were reported in 14 districts in the state," the official said.

With 4,833 samples examined during the day, the tally of tests carried out so far in Chhattisgarh went up to 1,76,19,635, he added. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,52,241, new cases 6, death toll 14,034, recovered 11,38,184, active cases 23, today tests 4,833, total tests 1,76,19,635.

## CSPTCL energises 9th power transformer

**In Khedmara sub-station**

**To help state get power from central power grid**

**Will ensure quality power supply to capital and other cities**

**Total power transformers in state increases to 9**



per the agreement from the central pool to the state. Chairman Chhattisgarh State Power Company (CSPC) Ankit Anand (IAS) has extended greetings to CSPTCL team for this achievement.

This new power transformer was recharged at the hands of MD CSPTCL SD Telang. With re-charging of this Power Transformer, there will be uninterrupted power supply in capital city Raipur, along with Durg-Bhilai and

Rajnandgaon and Bemetara district.

It is notable here that Khedmara sub-station is the oldest sub-station of CSPC and the power is supplied directly from Korba. During undivided MP, Khedmara was the only 400 KV sub-station of CSEB. There are two power transformers of 315-315 MVA in Khedmara and with installation of this third transformer, it total capacity has been hiked to 945 MVA. It is notable here that the

actual power demand in state has now reached 5300 MW. Though there is power available from the central pool to the state, but for this high capacity transformer is required to take power from the central grid. At present there were only 8 transformers of four 400 KV high-tension sub-stations.

But with installation of 9th HT transformer in Khedmara, it will be easier for the state to receive power from the power plants coming under Central Power Grid and this will help solve the voltage problem not only for domestic consumers, but also for the industrial units.

On this occasion Company's CE DK Chawda, SE Sunil Bhurya and other engineers and employees were present.

## Shiv Sena resorted to hooliganism: Athawale

**Demands President's rule in Maharashtra**

Raipur, Apr 26: Union Minister of State for Social Justice and National President of the Republican Party of India, Ramdas Athawale, has demanded President's rule in Maharashtra. Talking to the reporters at New Circuit House in Raipur, he said that his party wrote a letter to the central government yesterday and made a formal demand for it. He also said that he himself would raise this demand by meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah in a day or two.

Athawale alleged attempts to create communal conflicts in Maharashtra. Raj Thackeray, president of a



political party should not play a role which creates disputes in the society, Athawale said. If he wants to recite Hanuman Chalisa, then he should do it in front of the temple but the way he speaks of removing loudspeakers from mosques is unfair, he said. Athawale also questioned role of other community.

According to him some Maulanas of Muslim community are also giving irresponsible statements.

They should also take care of the security of Muslim community, he said. The Union Minister also said that Maharashtra government utterly failed to maintain law and order. MP-MLA Navneet Rana and Ravi Rana have been put in jail by the state government. A case of sedition has been imposed on them for announcing the reading of Hanuman Chalisa at the Chief Minister's residence. Recently, former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was called to the police station. Shiv Sainiks pelted stones on BJP leader Kirit Somaiya.

He has also alleged attempt to misuse government machinery. Attempts are being made to create disturbance in most of the places. The way the ruling Shiv Sena people are committing hooliganism is not

a good thing. If you want to do hooliganism, then come out of the government. The situation in Maharashtra is worrying, he said. His party demands President's rule there. Only then can the law and order situation be improved there.

On the question of inflation, Union Minister Athawale said 'inflation has increased, but it is the responsibility of both the Center and the state'. He talked about reducing taxes to deal with inflation. According to Union Minister all the states get their budget under the system. Chhattisgarh will also get adequate budget. Everyone has the responsibility of social justice. On the question of the 22 trains of Chhattisgarh, the Union Minister said 'we will talk about restoring the operation of trains'.

## Congress gheraoes DRM office

**In protest against step to halt services of trains in Ch'garh**

**Submits memorandum addressed to Railway Minister demanding immediate restoration of train services**



the DRM office. Slogans were raised against the BJP government at the center for the step to halt services of some trains in Chhattisgarh.

According to Congress, the services of 23 trains passing through Chhattisgarh were halted by railways suddenly canceled on April 22 without any alternative arrangement. According to the party people and daily

commuters are facing inconvenience due to halt in train services.

Examinations of students are going on, a large number of government and private employees travel regularly. Businessmen and common people reach their destination. At such a time, the step to suddenly halt services of 23 local and express trains is causing inconvenience to the people of the

**Three trains restored**

Raipur: On cancellation of 23 trains passing from South East Central Railway (SECR) and subsequent problems being faced by the passengers during summer season and request by the CM to PM and talks with the Railway Minister, Indian Railways have taken a decision to restore three trains as on Tuesday. The three trains include Korba-Amritsar -Korba; Sikandarabad-Raipur-Sikandarabad and Samta Express. The above three trains will now be running as per their schedule timing from tomorrow.

state.

The arrangement should be resumed for getting tickets for all local and express trains on the railway plat-

form. Arrangements should also be made for issuance of monthly pass for local trains.

According to Pradesh Congress President Mohan Markam for the first time after independence step has been taken to halt services of 23 trains passing through Chhattisgarh. He alleged conspiracy to increase price of electricity and coal by creating artificial coal crisis. According to him freight trains are running unabated on the route where the passenger trains have been stopped.

Demanding that BJP government at the centre must immediately restore operation of trains passing through Chhattisgarh to give immediate relief to the people of the state he warned of intensifying the protest.

## Maheshwari brothers won two medals in Khelo India Games



Raipur, Apr 26: Maheshwari brothers from Durga College have won two medals for Pt Ravishankar Shukla University Chhattisgarh in

the Khelo India University Games underway at Bangaluru. Similarly, Rajbala has also secured a medal in the Boxing event. According to the infor-



mation received, Vijay

**Rajbala secures medal for Pt RSU in Boxing event**

Kumar Maheshwari won gold medal in the 55 kg weightlifting event with a 100 Kg snatch, 130 Kg Clean & Jerk with the total weight of 230 Kgs defeating Uday Mahajan from Maharashtra.

Similarly Komal Maheshwari also won bronze medal with total lift of 225 Kgs in the event under the University Games. Both the players

are under training of Ajaydeep Sarang and Rustam Sarang.

Similarly, Pt RSU player Rajbala has secured place in the semi-final defeating Sakshi from MTNS University of Maharashtra in the 60-63 Kg category. Weightlifting Association General Secretary Rajesh Janghel, Director Physical Education of Pt RSU Dr Vipin Chandra Sharma, USM Dr Debashish Hajra and Tennis Coach Rupendra Chouhan have congratulated the players on the success.

### Muskan Nayak selected in International Drawing Exhibition

Raipur, Apr 26: Muskan Nayak from Adarsh Vidyalaya Devendra Nagar has been selected in International Drawing Exhibition conducted by the institution RICE. Muskan attained 10th position in the competition for the age group 16 to 18 years. The theme of the drawing exhibition was 'MY



COSMO'. The selection was done through an online drawing competition at Kolkata and the Exhibition

is going to take place in Russia too. Muskan's selection is a matter of pride and glory for the state of Chhattisgarh. The Principal Suman Shanbagh, the president of the group of schools, Shashi Kumar of Raipur Karla Samajam, teachers and friends congratulate Muskan for her glittering achievement.

## श्री खाटू श्याम ज्योतिष

**पं. रविकांत शर्मा**  
**पं. एस.के. शास्त्री**  
**जन्मकुण्डली विशेषज्ञ**

हर मुश्किल से मुश्किल समस्या का समाधान  
"ज्योतिष मेरा काम नहीं, मेरी साधना है"  
"जब कहीं ना हो काम, तो हमसे ले समाधान"

श्री खाटू श्याम की असीम कृपा से आपकी हस्त रेखा, चेहरा फोटो देखकर भविष्य बताते हैं। रोग पीड़ा, कलह, कष्ट, संतान योग, विवाह व्यापार उन्नति, नौकरी, प्रमोशन, मकान, दुकान, फैंक्ट्री, विदेश यात्रा, बच्चों का कैरियर, मानसिक, शारीरिक एवं आर्थिक परेशानी, कालसर्प दोष जीवन, पति-पत्नि, शादी, लड़का, लड़की के टूटे रिश्ते पर मार्गदर्शन, स्त्री-पुरुष सभी का समाधान भक्ति, पुजा पाठ द्वारा मार्गदर्शन करते हैं। एक बार अवश्य मिलें।

**व्यापार बढ़ोतरी, किया कराया, शादी के लिए माता पिता को मनाना, मोहनी स्पेशलिस्ट**

**बुकिंग के लिए संपर्क करें:-**

**बुकिंग समय -**  
**सुबह 9.00 बजे से सुबह 10.00 बजे तक**  
**मिलने का समय :**  
**सुबह 10.00 बजे से शाम 6.00 बजे तक**

**नोट: मिलने के लिए अपॉइंटमेंट लेना आवश्यक है**

**पोलसायपारा चौक, गुप्ता प्रेस के नीचे, स्टेशन रोड, दुर्ग (छ.ग.)**  
**Mobile : 9755964567, 8269882138**

## Yoga plays an important role in keeping mind and body healthy: CM

**CM announces to provide building in village Fundahar for regular practice of yoga**  
**CM inaugurates State Level Yogasana Competition cum Yoga Conference**



mark the occasion of fifth foundation day of Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission.

Chief Minister Baghel said that the literal meaning of Yoga is 'to join' or 'to unite'. It helps one to connect with the inner self. Yoga helps an individual to become more mentally and physically disciplined and discipline makes us a responsible citizens. On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced to provide a

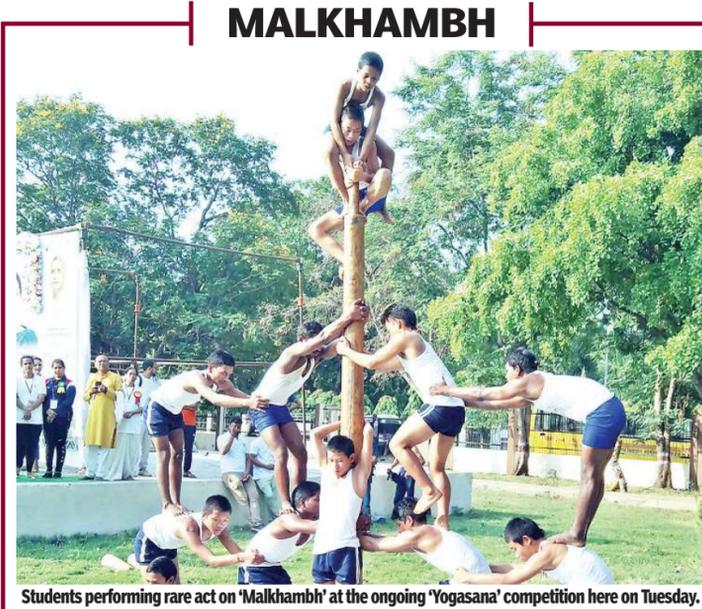
building in village Fundahar to the residents of the state capital for regular yoga practice. Mr. Baghel appreciated the yoga poses performed by the participants of the Yogasana competition and wished them a bright future.

The Chief Minister further said that Yoga is individual and not collective. The nature of each person's body is different. Therefore, one should practice 'asanas' suitable

for their body under the guidance of a qualified yoga instructor. He said that asanas-pranayama should be practiced following the principles of Ashtanga Yoga. It has a positive effect on the nerves, muscles and bones. It helps to boost one's confidence and self-esteem. Chhattisgarh State Yoga Commission Chairman Gyanesh Sharma said that more than one thousand participants are participating in

the three-day Yogasana competition organized to mark the occasion of the fifth foundation day of the Commission. On Tuesday, April 26, a programme of Surya Namaskar and special yoga practice by 1000 yoga practitioners has been organized in the campus of Pt. Ravi Shankar University.

Mahant Dr. Ramsunder Das, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Cow Service Commission, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Mr. Kuldeep Juneja, Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Vikas Upadhyay, MLA Mr. Brijmohan Agrawal, Member of Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission Mr. Ravinder Singh, Rajesh Nara, Satnam Panag along with office bearers of various yoga institutions, instructors and yoga practitioners were also present on the occasion.



Students performing rare act on 'Malkhambh' at the ongoing 'Yogasana' competition here on Tuesday.

## Ch'garh police's anti-Naxal operation yielding positive results

**57 Naxalites surrendered in March, 37 arrested**

**Raipur, Apr 26:** The joint action of Chhattisgarh Police and paramilitary forces that draws Naxalites to join the mainstream of society is yielding positive results with Naxal-activities confining into just few pockets in Chhattisgarh. According to information received from DIG (Naxal Operations), as many as 57 Naxalites have surren-

dered in the month of March, making the anti-Naxal operation of police successful. Meanwhile, a total of 37 Naxalites have also been arrested and 04 Naxalites have been killed in different encounters with police in the month of March. Besides, during the anti-Naxal operation, the police has recovered 05 weapons and seized and defused 20 IEDs in Dantewada, Bijapur and Sukma districts.

According to the information received from DIG (Naxal Operation), contin-

uous patrolling and search work is being done by police and paramilitary forces in the dense forest and hilly regions of worst-Maoist affected Dantewada, Bijapur and Sukma districts. During this, encounters between the police and paramilitary forces are also being witnessed. Anti-Naxal campaign is being run by Chhattisgarh Police to curb Maoist activities in the state. The joint operation of police and paramilitary forces is going on which is reaping success.

## HNLU CIIT to act as its Research Hub

**Formally inaugurated virtually on occasion of World IP Day**

**Raipur, Apr 26:** Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU), Raipur celebrated the curtain raiser of World Intellectual Property Day falling on 26th April 2022 through a virtual programme on April 25. The programme also the formal inaugural of the HNLU Centre for Intellectual Property, Innovation and Technology (CIIT) - an HNLU Research hub on April 25 by Dr. Unnat P Pandit, Controller General of Patents, Design and Trademark as the Chief Guest for the event. The virtual inauguration was followed by an interaction titled "IN CONVERSATION" which was hosted under the platform "EX ARCA" (meaning out of the box) series of HNLU.

The HNLU Center for Intellectual Property, Innovation & Technology (CIIT), at HNLU aims to play a pivotal role for capacity building of stakeholders in field of law, management, technology and science and to catalyse the



efforts for innovation and monetization to benefit the stakeholders.

Prof. Garima Panwar, a lead IP faculty at HNLU explained the structure and goals of the to develop research, teaching and advocacy in Intellectual Property Rights especially that of the geographical strengths of manufacturing, mining and traditional knowledge for appropriate outcome of policy and practice of IPR. The center will be collaborating and contributing with state and central Governments for appropriate IP dissemination and propagation.

Speaking about the programme Prof. Vivekanand and remarked that "The inaugural of this centre marks the beginning of a vibrant research clusters of the HNLU Research

HUB and presence of the Patent Controller is a great start for roll out of the research centre"

During his opening remarks, Prof. Dr. Unnat P Pandit observed that "Establishment of this centre is a crucial for the trajectory India is taking in the field of innovation and IPR and the research output of this centre will play an important role for policy makers"

The Welcome Address for the program was delivered by Prof. Dr. Uday Shankar, Registrar, HNLU and the Vote of Thanks was delivered by Prof. Dr. Vishnu K, Dean PG Studies and Research, HNLU. The programme was anchored by Prof Anita Singh and Prof. Ankit Awasti on behalf of digital@hnl team.

## Birth anniv of Mahatma Hansraj commemorated



**At DAV Public School, Bachel**

Central Chronicle News

**Bachel, Apr 26:** The birth anniversary of Mahatma Hansraj was commemorated at DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL, BACHELI. Tributes were paid to the great soul by the Principal Dr. Chetna Sharma and the staff members.

Mr. V. K. Dewangan had given a brief de-

scription about Mahatma Hansraj's life and his contribution towards the upliftment of every section in the society leaving behind the caste discrimination. Mrs. Omisha Sahu along with the Principal and other teachers beautifully sung the bhajans. The Principal applauded the sincere efforts of her team and also encouraged everyone to follow the footsteps of the great soul - Mahatma Hansraj.

## Implement welfare schemes of the Health awareness camp held govt with priority: DC



Central Chronicle News

**Jagdalpur, Apr 26:** District Collector Rajat Bansal warned of strict action against officials, found guilty of not implementing welfare schemes of the government and depriving the public of basic

facilities. The collector was presiding review here at the Collectorate premises. The Collector said that the officers should visit villages regularly and monitor the operation of drinking water, electricity, food grains, health centers, schools and

Anganwadi centers and provide basic facilities and quality services to the people. He directed all the sub-divisional magistrates to ensure smooth implementation of public welfare schemes of the government in their respective areas.

Emphasizing on the quality of services provided through Revenue and Panchayat and Rural Development Department, the Collector emphasized on the presence of Patwari and Panchayat Secretary in the headquarters. He said that immediate stern action should be ensured against the officers who

are absent in the headquarters.

The Collector also directed to conduct maximum employment-oriented activities in all the Gauthans as well as ensure the fulfillment of all the basic necessities. He warned of strict action against the Sarpanch, Secretary and Rural Agriculture Extension Officer as well as the officials of the departments concerned if the arrangements for the Gauthans were not found correct. The Collector also gave approval for construction of buildings for 112 fair price shops soon in the district.

**Under Azadi-Ka-Amrit-Mahotsav celebrations**

**Koriya, Apr 26:** A Health awareness fair cum camp organized by the health department was launched in the district to commemorate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. On the first day of the health fair, 1 thousand 65 people took advantage of the health facilities, in which 585 people got tested in cultural building of development block Manendragarh and 480 in urban primary health center of Nagar Palika Parishad Shivpur Charcha. In the fair, people were



given general medicine, nose, ear and throat related examination, dental examination, skin examination, nutrition consultation, AIDS control

Counseling, Leprosy Control, T.B. Control and others were done.

District Collector while visiting the camp at Urban Health Center of Shivpur Charcha interacted with patients and provided aid to 6-month-old girl Abida, who arrived at the health fair with ear problem and patients Meena Singh and Devendra Naidu with spectacles and Purushottam with Ayushman card. Municipal Council Shivpur Charcha President Lalmuni Yadav, District Panchayat CEO Kunal Dudawat along with District Level Officer and team of Health Department were present.

## Collector makes surprise inspection of Tehsil

**Koriya, Apr 26:** District Collector Kuldeep Sharma inspected Tehsil and Janpad Panchayat office along with District Panchayat CEO Kunal Dudawat during his visit to development block Baikunthpur hre. After discussing with the officers and employees in the Tehsil office, he directed to resolve the pending cases of revenue matters, transfer, distribution, RBC 6-4, caste income, and residence certificate cases at the earliest.

After meeting the applicants who had brought their applications to the Tehsil office, Collector Shri Sharma inquired about their problems and directed to solve the problem of one Manprasad of

village Chervapara, who had brought the application for compensation amount, at the earliest.

During the inspection, Sharma instructed the officials to make arrangements for pots for drinking water arrangement near the entrance gate in the tehsil for the convenience of the general public. During the inspection of District Panchayat office, Collector Shri Sharma checked the records in various branches in the office. He inquired about the resolution of cases like ration card, pension and online entry in the portal in the camps set up in the past and instructed to make proper arrangements in the office.

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Apr 26:** Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University) Bilaspur in today's scenario of changing technologies and creation of new opportunities, students pursuing a degree in engineering are quite unsure about which field to make a career in. Keeping this situation in mind, the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, School of Studies in Engineering in Technology, Guru Ghasidas



Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University) Bilaspur has launched a first of its kind "ECE Lecture Series" aimed at helping students to choose their best possible career path, clearing their doubts and giving them insights about the present day and, at the same time,

to guide them through the technologies being used in the industry and the alumni of the department. Speaker of this session, Prashasti Pankaj, Student Coordinator and final year student of ECE department, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dr. Soma Das, HOD ECE

## ECE lecture series organized at CU

and Convener of the event addressed the meeting thereafter and explained the purpose of the meeting. Bhavna Shukla, Assistant Professor E.C.E., and the coordinator of this series took the responsibility of addressing the speakers.

Vikas Swarnkar, Scientist/Engineer- SF, Deputy Head, System Reliability, SDSC SHAR, ISRO Sriharikota, A.P. (Alumnus 2004) and Abhishek Khandelwal, Sr. Tech Member Technical Staff - I, 5G Network, R&D Team Mavenir Systems, Ex - Sasken, Nokia 4G/5G Domain, an

entrepreneur in E-Commerce Domain (Alumnus 2015) gave their brief introductions.

Our first speaker Vikas Swarnkar shared his experiences with everyone and informed the students about the scope of ECE in India and the future opportunities. He shared his experience on how he joined a reputed organization like ISRO and relied on the fact that hard work leads to success. He then went on to share the strategies behind cracking competitive exams. Our second speaker of the day, Mr. Abhishek Khandelwal re-

flected on his thoughts on having the right mindset and the upcoming and current technologies used in the industry and the right path to make a career in the core area of ECE. More than 50 students participated in the meeting and got information about opportunities in ECE. A feedback form was started for each and every student to know about the quality of the program conducted and the future topics on which the webinar should be conducted. The program ended with vote of thanks by Smt. Pragati Patharia, Assistant Professor, ECE.

# Water security is the foundation of our bright future: Arun Sao



Takhatpur, Apr 26:

Due to the scorching heat in the city, there was a demand to drill bore in seven places of the city, which was fulfilled in the public interest due to the initiative of MP Arun Sao. Water is life, it is also necessary for us to save water and through this platform we have to take a pledge that water should

not be wasted because if there is water then there is tomorrow, said MP Arun Sao. The parliamentarian was speaking at the bore opening Bhoomi Pujan program in Takhatpur Nagar. Former President of Women's Commission Smt. Harshita Pandey said that politics of discrimination is being done in Takhatpur Municipality,

and the wards of the BJP councilors were neglected, but while being committed to the development of the city, the BJP is taking full care of the facilities of the people.

The program was presided over by Smt. Harshita Pandey, former President of the Women's Commission. The special guests were Jeevan Lal Pandey, Tretanath

Pandey, Narayan Singh Thakur, Mamta Dhananjay Kshatriya, America Krishna Kumar Sahu, Pradeep Kaushik, Banshi Pade, former vice-president of the municipality. The program was mainly attended by Parshad Shiv Devangan, Nain Lal Sahu, Komal Singh Thakur, Pratibha Kashi Devangan, Puspaha Narendra Ratre,

Amrika Krishna Kumar Sahu, Malti Yadav, Rama Kashyap, Lata Kashyap, Shyama Ramanandi, Banshi Pade, Dilip Tolani, Anil Singh Thakur, Chandrakant Dwivedi, Luv Kumar Pandey, Guljit Khurana, Narmada Dhuri, Dhananjay Singh, Pillu Ram Sahu, Rajesh Soni, Gyan Singh Thakur, Monu Semar, Dakesh Kashyap, Narendra Ratre Kashi Devangan, Tilak Devangan, Amit Yadav, Vikram Singh Thakur, Islam Ansari, Omkar Soni, Basant Soni, Rajkumar Pandey, Surendra Soni, Rakesh Tiwari, Surya Kashyap and others were present in large numbers. The program was conducted by General Secretary Nain Lal Sahu and Aabhar Mandal Vice President Krishna Kumar Sahu.

# Proper implementation of central schemes not done: Bharti

Dongargarh, Apr 26:

## Many schemes by state govt in public interest: Sinha

Meanwhile Block Congress Committee Rural President Suresh Sinha categorically rejected the allegation made by former MLA Shri Bharti and said that the state government is working towards progressive development of farmers through Gaudhan Nyay Yojana including Narva Garwa Bari. This has strengthened the rural economy, at the same time, along with employment; the business of traders is also flourishing. Keeping all the sections in mind, many schemes are being implemented by the state government, he said.

public welfare schemes run by the Centre, the amount is not available for about 7000 approved new houses in the district due to the negligence of the state government in giving the amount of its contribution. The beneficiaries of the Prime Minister's house have become homeless. The debt of traders on them is increasing, he alleged. Similarly, widow pension, unemployment

allowance, farmers not getting the amount as announced, etc. and due to the disobedience of the state government, there is huge resentment among the public and if the MLAs want to solve the public problem with an open mind, then they should take proper initiative in the direction of implementation of all the welfare schemes of the Centre in public interest, he said.

# Development work worth crores announced



Dhamdha, Apr 26:

After 18 years, major developmental works were inaugurated in the region by the Chief Minister and a huge crowd of more than fifteen thousand people took part in the Bhoomi Pujan. The Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel dedicated to the public, fruit wholesale vegetable market at a cost of 11 crores, new buildings of Agriculture Department including Government Hospital constructed at a cost of 1.50 crores, Irrigation Department, Public Works Department works worth crores of Nagar Panchayat, and also dedicated 27 nos. of tractors to farmers, tricycles to handicapped, motorcycles to fishermen with nets. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, were welcomed



by President of the Nagar Panchayat, Smt. Sunita Gupta, Block President Shiv Verma, and party workers. Collector Sarveshwar Bhure read the report of the tenure of 3 years of Dhamdha area, and after giving the welcome address, the President of the Nagar Panchayat, Mrs. Sunita Gupta kept her point while narrating the struggles of her previous tenure and said that how the previous

government had run a bulldozer on the vegetable market.

The traders were forced to wander from door to door; today everyone's dreams have come true with the new vegetable market. The Chief Minister also gave an immediate approval of Rs. 5 crores for the development of the city, and on the demand of Minister Choubey, the 30 bed hospital of Dhamdha was in-

creased to 50 beds, and coaching centre and new auditorium in Dhamdha College was also announced.

The programme was addressed by Mandi President Ashwani Sahu, the program was conducted by District Congress General Secretary Rajiv Gupta, and present were former MLA Pradeep Choubey, Nagar Panchayat President Sunita Gupta, District President Saraswati Ratre, Shiv Kumar Verma, Rajeev Gupta, Jeevan Verma, Shamshir Qureshi, Jalam Singh, Dehuti Sahu Patel, Madhusudan Rana, Ashok Kasar, Dukhva Patel, Himmat Dhimar, Arun Sahu, Rajat Nayak, Dakendra Sahu, Jeevan Nirmalkar, Rameshwar Sahu and thousands of people.

# Tribals share pain in midst of claims of Maoists-Police

Konta / Sukma, Apr 26:

After the statement issued by the Maoists' Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee regarding the drone attack and its refutation by the police, the people's protest in the border villages of Sukma-Bijapur on the lines of Silger seems to be taking the form of a militant movement. On Sunday, a crowd of more than ten thousand villagers had gathered for demonstration in Bodkel village. Along with the villagers, children and elders were also involved in this demonstration in large numbers. Till now, sparks of protest have been rising in the inner villages regarding the camps of the security forces, now they are asking the government to stop such attacks by calling for water-jungle-land and not saying that they are safe by mentioning the air strike.

According to the villagers, the echo of the blasts in the night is still reverberating in their ears. The remains that have been found on the spot are enough to prove the reality of the drone attack, yet why are the government, police not believing their words.

There is a threat to life and property from such



attacks. The protesters expressed concern about the destruction of the forest and said that if such bombing continues from the sky in the coming days, the forest will not survive, the existence of the tribals will be in danger, their cattle will be killed, there is no way for them except to escape to save their lives.

According to the villagers, a similar incident had happened last year and this is the second incident this month, after which the people of the village and the village are scared. In the season of Mahua, they have

to move to the forest for forest produce. Now they are afraid to go to the forest. Their existence rests on the forests, but if they stop going to the forest due to the fear of the sky, how will they survive. Any forest-village can be destroyed in the bombing, if this happens, not only the existence of the tribals will end, but the primitive culture will also become extinct, villagers claimed.

The villagers said that in the name of eradicating Naxalites, they have been tortured before, now their trouble has in-

creased even more due to the bombs being dropped targeting the Naxalites from the sky. However, amidst the claims of the Naxalites and the police, the demand of the villagers is that if they want to know the reality, then the ministers and MLAs of the government should reach among them. They should come here and confirm the claims themselves, if they become aware of the truth, then protective steps should be taken to maintain the supremacy of the tribals, otherwise their movement will take a more massive form.

# Demand for making Rajim a district intensifying

Rajim, Apr 26: The demand for making Rajim a district has come to the fore once again, after the formation of 36 districts in the state. This demand is 20 years old, and it was the demand of Sant Pawan Diwan, the celibate saint of Chhattisgarh, who wanted from the very beginning that Rajim should be made a district. His arguments were forwarded, with the fact that all the major pilgrimage centers Haridwar, Nashik, Allahabad, Ujjain etc were all districts except of Rajim. Known as Prayagraj of Chhattisgarh, people from all over the state come to take a dip in the confluence of three rivers with great faith and reverence and with the establishment of Khairagarh as the 33rd district, the people of the region are awaiting their region to get the status of a district. The people of the region are also putting forward the name of Pt. Shyamacharan Shukla, his son Amitesh Shukla the present MLA, in claiming the services of the family towards the people of the region. Both the cities of Rajim and Navapara are very prosperous from the point of view of trade and both are also



Bhavsinh Sahu Rekha Sonkar

tehsil headquarters. population of both cities. If it is merged, then there are 72 panchayats of Fingeshwar block and 70 panchayats of Abhanpur block, covering a population of one lakh, apart from this, the panchayats of Chura block including Arang block and Magarlod can be included in it. District Congress Committee President Bhavsinh Sahu said that Rajim has the right to become a district and Sant Pawan Diwan ji used to say that Rajim must be made a district in the name of Bhakti Mata. Nagar Panchayat President Rekha-Jitendra Sonkar said that Rajim is called Prayagraj of Chhattisgarh, and has all the right to become a district. Former President of Nagar Panchayat Pawan Sonkar said that Rajim has the right to become a district, due to the formation of a district, facilities will in-

crease here, the general public will be comfortable. Vice President of Advocates Association, Manshu Dubey said that making Rajim district has become necessary for every village because Rajim has a different identity for tourism and religion in the whole of India. Senior Congress leader Sunil Tiwari said that Rajim-Nawapara is a place of mythological, religious, historical, archaeological importance of Chhattisgarh, so making Rajim a district is mandatory. Senior BJYM leader of the district Vikas Sahu said that the Rajim of Chhattisgarh is famous not only in the country but on the world stage, therefore it should be made a district. Senior Congress leader of Rajim area and senior patron of district Satnami Samaj Munna Kurre said that Rajim is called Dharma Nagari, a fair has been going on in Rajim for centuries, which has a different identity in the whole world and a delegation should be formed to meet Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for the demand of creating a district in harmony with the people of all the nearby villages including Rajim-Nawapara.

# One-day industrial visit of Industry- IIC

Bilaspur, Apr 26: A one-day industrial visit was organized jointly by the Department of Industrial and Production Engineering and Industry-Institute Interaction Cell (IIC) of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, on April 7. Under this, the students of B.Tech.6th Semester of I.P.E. Department were taken to Central Institute of Petrochemical Engineering and Technology (CIPET) located at

Bhanpuri (Raipur) Industrial Area. I P Tindh was visited in Raipur. The Director and Head of CIPET, J.P.T.Raipur, B.P.Patro, gladly granted permission for this visit. In this visit, a total of 40 students and three assistant professors, Disha Devangana, Anurag Singh and Somnath Singraul participated for guidance. Led by Vishal Verma, Vice-Principal, CIPET IPT, the students visited the four major

departments of CIPET (Cad.Cam, Tool Room, Production and Testing) and understood the working process there. All the students took part in this tour with great pleasure and saw many instruments related to their department being used in direct form. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal expressed happiness on this visit and encouraged similar visits in future.

**आम सूचना**

सर्वसामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरा पक्षकार शिव कुमार साई आ. भीष्म लाल मरकाम, निवासी खोपरा, पाटन, तहसील पाटन, जिला दुर्ग (छ.ग.) ने सतीश कुमार आ. भीष्म लाल मरकाम से एक जमीन, जिसका खसरा नं. 53 का टुकड़ा, रकबा - 1174.48 वर्ग फुट जो कि ग्राम खोपरा, वार्ड नं. 14, प.ह.नं. 38, राजिम, पाटन, तहसील पाटन, जिला दुर्ग (छ.ग.) रजिस्टर्ड बयनामा दिनांक 25.03.2022 के तहत दान प्राप्त किया था। उक्त संपत्ति को सतीश कुमार आ. भीष्म लाल मरकाम ने मदन लाल मरकाम आ. हिरऊ मरकाम से रजिस्टर्ड बयनामा दिनांक 20.09.2019 के तहत क्रय किया था। उक्त बयनामा (सतीश कुमार व मदन लाल मरकाम के मध्य) मेरे पक्षकार से गुम हो गया है। इस बाबत मेरे पक्षकार द्वारा पुलिस थाना में दिनांक 02.02.2021 को शिकायत प्रस्तुत की जा चुकी है। अस्तु इस आम सूचना के द्वारा आम जनता को सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त मूल विक्रय पत्र दिनांक 20.09.2019 रिक्ती बैंक सहकारी संस्था या कारनेस कमनी के समक्ष बंधक हो सकता कोई व्यक्ति इस पर कोई हक व अधिकार रखता हो तो इस आम सूचना के प्रकाशन के 14 दिवस के अंदर मेरे कार्यालय में उपस्थित होकर दस्तावेज सहित अपना आपत्ति दर्ज कराए। समयवधि में आपत्ति नहीं होने पर मेरा पक्षकार अंतिम कार्यवाही करे हेतु स्वतंत्र होगा। अस्तु सूचना जारी।

**शुभो चक्रवर्ती**  
(अधिकृत)

वास्ते अरिन्दी सिंह एण्ड एसोसिएट  
12, नगर निगम परिसर, सुपेला, मिलाई (छ.ग.)  
मो. नं. 9302887265

**NAME CHANGE**

It is informed to the general public that I, **BHUPENDRA KUMAR S/o SANTOSH KUMAR** resident of **BEHIND LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL, GODAVARI NAGAR, YASH VIHAR BORIYAKHURD, RAIPUR (CG)** have changed my this old name to **BHUPENDRA KUMAR SAHU** so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is **BHUPENDRA KUMAR SAHU** in all government and other documents.

**BHUPENDRA KUMAR SAHU**  
S/o **SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU**  
Resident of Behind little flower School, Godavari Nagar, Boriyakhurd, Raipur (CG)

**नाम परिवर्तन**

सर्वसामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं श्रीमती उन्नति पुष्पकार पति शैलेन्द्र पुष्पकार निवासी संजय नगर, मेन रोड टिकरापारा रायपुर (छ.ग.) पिन 492001 यह शपथ करती हूँ कि:- विवाह पूर्व मैं उगेश्वरी सोनकर पिता स्व. नारायण सोनकर के नाम से जानी पहचानी जाती थी। विवाह के बाद नाम बदलकर नया नाम श्रीमती उन्नति पुष्पकार पति शैलेन्द्र पुष्पकार रख ली हूँ। अतः आज से मुझे समस्त शासकीय, अर्धशासकीय व अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरे नए नाम श्रीमती उन्नति पुष्पकार पति शैलेन्द्र पुष्पकार से ही जाना पहचाना जावे।

**श्रीमती उन्नति पुष्पकार**  
संजय नगर, मेन रोड  
टिकरापारा रायपुर (छ.ग.)  
492001

**पावरग्रिड POWERGRID**

**NOTICE**

Approval under Regulation- 86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2019 for determination of Transmission Tariff from DCO to 31.03.2024 for Petition 1: Line bays and reactor at POWERGRID sub-station for Raichur -Sholapur transmission line for Synchronous interconnection between SR and WR.

The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: Petition 1:-(1) Madhya Pradesh Power Management Corporation Ltd. (2) Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company Ltd. (3) Electricity Department, Administration of Daman & Diu, Daman (4) Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd., Vadodara (5) Electricity Department, Government of Goa, Panaji (6) DNH Power Distribution Corporation Limited (7) Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd., Mumbai. (8) Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Co. Ltd. (9) Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kandra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd. Indore, (10) Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd. (11) Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Co. Ltd. (12) Gujarat Power Corporation Limited (13) Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd. (14) Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Ltd. (15) Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) (16) Tamilnadu Electricity Board (TNEB) (17) Electricity Department, Govt of Pondichery (18) Eastern Power Distribution Company of Andhra Pradesh Limited (19) Southern Power Distribution Company of Andhra Pradesh Limited (20) Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (21) Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (22) Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd. (23) Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Ltd. (24) Hubli Electricity Supply Company Ltd. (25) MESCOM corporate office (26) Chammundeswari Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd. (27) Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited (28) Raichur Sholapur Transmission Company Private Limited (29) Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (30) Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd.

1.Tariff details: Petition 1 - True Up Transmission tariff for 2014-19 Tariff Block

Asset	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	
A	Revised AFC based on true up	1170.85	1646.71	1696.60	1709.48	1681.50

Transmission tariff for 2019-24 Tariff Block

Project	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Asset A	1402.33	1370.31	1339.21	1308.36	1277.13

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at [www.powergridindia.com](http://www.powergridindia.com).

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary, before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd & 4th floor, Chandrakal Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurgaon Sd/-  
Date: 20.04.2022 Chief GM (Commercial)

**POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Registered Office: B-9, Outub Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016  
Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122 001  
A 'MAHARATNA' PSU

## BRIEF

### Parades

**Aurangabad:** A businessman in Maharashtra's Parli Vajjanath tied his electric scooter to a donkey with a rope and paraded it around the town as a mark of protest against its manufacture for not fixing the fault in the two-wheeler after it stopped working just 15 days post delivery. Feeling upset after poor response from the company to rectify the problem in the vehicle, the businessman, Sachin Gitte, tied faulty e-scooter to a donkey and paraded it across town in Beed district.

### Arrest

**Alappuzha:** Kerala Police recorded the arrest of two RSS workers, who were apprehended with weapons from Mannachery near here the previous day. Police said they have recorded the arrest of Sumesh alias Bittu and Sreenath, two RSS workers, and recovered a machete and registered a case under the Arms Act. The local SDPI councillor and his friend have given a complaint that they were attacked by these RSS workers. A case has been registered based on complaint.

### Manhandled

**New Delhi:** Some policemen were manhandled allegedly by advocates outside the Karkardooma Court complex during a protest against the cops, police said. The incident took place when some advocates started protesting and manhandling police personnel outside the court complex, police said. According to the police, the protesting lawyers alleged that, an advocate named Neeraj was beaten by Sub Inspector Sachin Dangi of Nand Nagri police station.

### Seized

**Fatehpur:** Police along with the officials of the Narcotics department seized dry 'ganja' worth Rs 8 crore from a truck travelling from Odisha to Rajasthan, officials said. The seizure was made in Bakewar police station area of the district. Acting on a tip-off, police intercepted the truck on the Chaudhagra-Jahanabad road, and recovered 24 quintal of dry 'ganja', whose cost is around Rs 8 crore in the international market, Bakewar Station House Officer (SHO) Neeraj Yadav said.

### Held

**Gurugram:** The Gurugram Police nabbed a resident a man who allegedly hit a home guard with his car in an inebriated state, officials said. SUV driver Anil, a resident of Bajad village in Mahendragarh district, was arrested from the Sector-38. He was produced before a city court which sent him to judicial custody while the vehicle has also been recovered, police said. The home guard is being treated in a hospital. A FIR has been registered at Sadar police station.

# 'BJP desperate due to inability to form Govt in Maharashtra'

Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTI):

A day after BJP leader Devendra Fadnis slammed the Maharashtra government in the wake of a political row over the recitation of Hanuman Chalisa, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Tuesday claimed the BJP's desperation stems from its inability to come back to power in the state. Talking to reporters here, Raut further said the BJP stands no chance of coming back to power in the state in the next 25 years. The Shiv Sena, which snapped ties with the BJP after the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly polls, currently shares power with



Sanjay Raut

the NCP and Congress in the state.

Raut also claimed that former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya, who alleged that he was attacked by Shiv Sainiks last

week, had "applied tomato sauce to pretend he was bleeding".

His remarks came after a BJP delegation comprising former MP Somaiya and party MLAs from Mumbai met Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai in New Delhi, and urged him to form a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the alleged assault on Somaiya and review his security arrangements.

Fadnis had claimed that the Mumbai police were not taking seriously the "attack" on Somaiya over the weekend allegedly by Shiv Sainiks seriously and written a letter to

Union home secretary, claiming the city police were acting like "servants" of the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government in the state.

Raut also slammed Fadnis for his statement that if reciting Hanuman Chalisa attracts sedition, then he along with his party-men will do it.

The city police on Saturday arrested independent MP Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana and booked them on charge of sedition, after they gave a call to recite Hanuman Chalisa outside CM Thackeray's private residence 'Matoshree' in suburban Bandra.

## Delhi, Punjab Govts sign knowledge sharing agreement

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

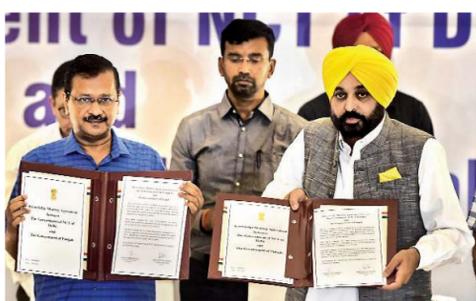
An agreement for knowledge sharing was signed on Tuesday between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Singh Mann, who said 117 schools and mohalla clinics will be developed in his state.

Mann said education, health and power were a priority of his government and Punjab can learn from Delhi where a lot of work has been done in these fields.

Delhi can also learn from Punjab about agriculture, he said.

Kejriwal said India will progress if every state starts learning from the good work done by others.

"It will be wrong to say



For better health, education infrastructure

that only we have done good work. There were several islands of excellence across the country but there were divisions of parties and states, and nothing was learnt from that," he said in a press conference held jointly with Mann.

About opposition allegations that the AAP govern-

ment in Punjab was being ruled from Delhi, Kejriwal said, "Manish Sisodia visited Europe and Finland to learn about their education system. It will be stupid if someone says the Delhi government is being run by Finland."

"Recently, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin visited Delhi."

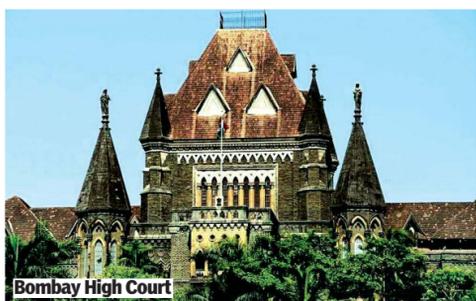
# Railways must pay compensation if person falls off crowded train: HC

Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court has observed that local trains are the lifeline of Mumbai and if a person falls and suffers injuries while trying to board an overcrowded train, it will fall within the ambit of an "untoward incident" and compensation will have to be paid by the Railways.

A single bench of Justice Bharati Dangre directed the Western Railways to pay Rs 3 lakh to a 75-year-old man who suffered injuries to his leg after falling off an overcrowded local train.

A copy of the order dated April 12 was made available on Tuesday. The Western Railways argued that the case did not fall under the provisions of section 124(A) of the Railways Act, which states that compensation has to



Bombay High Court

be paid in cases of untoward incidents. It claimed that the petitioner, Nitin Hundiwala, had tried to board a moving train.

Justice Dangre, however, refused to accept the Railways' argument and noted that the present case clearly fell within the situation covered by "untoward incident" as per section 124(A) of the Act.

If in daily chores, a passenger attempts to gain

entry into an overcrowded train and is pushed by other passengers, resulting in his or her fall, then there is no reason why such an incident cannot fall within the ambit of an untoward incident, the order said. Local trains in Mumbai are often called the 'life line of the city', with a huge number of the city's inhabitants relying on them to get to work and other destinations at

some point of time, the court said. Even, it is not unknown, for the residents of Mumbai who commute through Railways, to undertake risk at some point of time, in order to reach their destination on time. This city, which is affordable and convenient, this calculated risk cannot surely amount to a criminal act, Justice Dangre said. The order further stated that the purpose of section 124(A) of the Railways Act was to provide speedy remedy to an injured passenger or to the dependents of a deceased passenger involved in an untoward incident.

This provision of the Act cannot be stretched to deny compensation to a person who may act callously or imprudently at times, Justice Dangre said.

# Jharkhand forest officer's papers accepted for WFC

Ranchi, Apr 26 (PTI):

Research papers of a Jharkhand forest officer have been accepted for presentation at the World Forestry Congress, which is held every six years. The event will take place in Seoul from May 2 to May 6.

Sanjeev Kumar, additional principal chief conservator of forests, CAMPA, Jharkhand, will present the two papers at the congress.

The first paper deals with the use of traditional knowledge in sustainable forest management and provisioning of ecosystems in Jharkhand while the second one discusses non-timber forest produce



IFS Sanjeev Kumar

(NTFP) as a source of livelihood and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Kumar told PTI, that villagers and tribals living in and around the forests have acquired traditional knowledge over time. It is also transferred from one generation to the next

through folk art, folk tales, and folk music.

This traditional knowledge, he said, is all about the enhancement and sustainable use of forests.

A study was carried out in this regard to know the trajectories of sustainable forest management (SFM) development and the role of the traditional knowledge for SFM in Jharkhand. The study reflects that this traditional knowledge is associated with practices like conservation through planting groves, celebrating festivals based on nature, taboos, social beliefs and various other practices which have been helpful in SFM.

# 121 CCTVs to be installed in riot-hit Khargone

Buses allowed to operate during curfew relaxation

Khargone, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Khargone district administration in Madhya Pradesh has started the work of installing 121 CCTV cameras at different locations, including those where stone-pelting was reported during the Ram Navami celebration earlier this month, an official said on Tuesday.

Local administration relaxed the curfew in the violence-hit town for nine hours - from 8 am to 5 pm - for the fourth day in a row on Tuesday and allowed plying of passenger buses during that period.

Communal clashes had erupted in Khargone on



Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao lays the foundation stone for the construction of Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) Super Specialty Hospital, in Elbilnagar.

# 'People forced to flee homes need to be treated with dignity'

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

People who are forced to flee from their homes or are displaced need to be treated with dignity, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner Gillian Triggs said, lauding India's efforts in opening its borders to refugees.

Triggs, who is on a four-day visit to India, was speaking at the inauguration of the Charkha exhibition at the National Gandhi Museum.

She praised India's efforts to the protection of Tibetans and the Sri Lankan Tamils.

"One of the first reasons that I wanted to come to India was the fact that India has a very



UN Assistant Secretary General Gillian Triggs with Director of NGM A Annamalai visits the renovated Charkha Gallery during its inauguration, at the National Gandhi Museum, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

long history of support for refugees. India opened its borders and it protected many people over many centuries," Triggs said. Linking Mahatma Gandhi's use of

the spinning wheel (charkha) to self-reliance, Triggs said people who are forced to flee from their homes, who are displaced to be treated with dignity and a part of that

search for dignity is self-reliance. "I understand that this was very much behind Mahatma Gandhi's thinking that to be able to spin this, the concept to do this yourself, was a way of empowering them (people) and of showing that they could be independent and self-reliant," she said. "We both value India's contribution to protection for people in need. But we also value the contribution that they make as refugees to the communities... there are many examples of the support that India has given more recently to the people of Afghanistan and people fleeing from Myanmar," she added.

# Telangana CM likely to unveil national agenda

Hyderabad, Apr 26 (PTI):

The ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti's 21st Foundation Day here on Wednesday is likely to spell out the party's roadmap ahead of next year's Assembly polls and its supreme and Chief Minister K Chandrasekar Rao's national role amidst his efforts to cobble up an anti-BJP front to take on the saffron party juggernaut in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Rao is slated to address the workers at the meeting.

The event is also expected to mark the sounding of the poll bugle for the 2023 state assembly polls, with the ruling party setting its eyes for a third straight term since coming to power in 2014, when the state came into existence.

Rao will address party workers and members on the 21st foundation day and is likely to unveil its

national agenda. TRS, established on April 27, 2001 to seek the formation of an independent Telangana state, achieved its objective on June 2, 2014 with the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh.

During the day-long celebrations at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) in the city, the party will showcase its strength, the Telangana development model, and achievements of the TRS government in the last seven years.

As per the schedule, the TRS supreme will kick-start the celebrations by hoisting the party flag around 10.30 am, followed by delivery of a welcome address and introduction of 11 resolutions including one on national and state political situation.

The resolution will be debated and passed in the plenary meeting, which will also seek the people's

support for the continued growth of Telangana based on welfare programmes for all communities. The TRS government has launched more than three dozen-odd welfare schemes in the last seven years. Some popular welfare schemes are: Rythu Bandhu, Dalit Bandhu, Dharani, Kanti Velugu, Mission KCR Kit, Mission Kakatiya, Mission Bhagiratha, Haritha Haram, Kalyana Lakshmi-Shaadi Mubarak, Arogya Lakshmi, Asara pensions, Housing for the poor, sheep distribution, T-fiber and WE Hub Women Entrepreneurs Hub.

Telangana, which saw frequent power cuts, low agriculture production, lack of drinking water, and general sense of desperation among the people before the statehood is said to have made rapid strides in the last seven years.

The police had arrested Mohsin last Friday from Kasrawad police station area in the district.

Khargone SP Siddharth Choudhary is currently on leave as he is undergoing treatment after sustaining a bullet injury in his leg.

Since April 14, the local administration has been relaxing the curfew for some hours.

As per the district administration's order, the curfew relaxation will not be applicable to petrol pumps, religious places and for the sale of kerosene from Public Distribution System (PDS) shops.

During the curfew relaxation period, shops selling milk, vegetables, medicines, and barber's shops among others, are allowed to remain open, said the order.

## BRIEF

### Extremist

**Ottawa:** The Canadian Armed Forces is not doing enough to detect and prevent white supremacists and other violent extremists from infiltrating the military, said a report released by Defense Minister Anita Anand. The report comes after a yearlong review by a panel of retired Armed Forces members and follows a number of incidents linking some military personnel with violent extremism and hate groups, including white supremacists and neo-Nazis with issues.

### Migrants

**Skopje:** Police in North Macedonia say a patrol discovered 18 migrants in the south of the country and arrested the driver after a brief chase. 18 migrants, 14 Syrians and four Pakistanis were discovered as they disembarked from a car with Bulgarian license plates not far from the border with Greece. The driver, a 27-year-old North Macedonian identified only by his initials, DA, attempted to flee but was arrested after a short chase. The migrants were transferred to a shelter.

### Drones

**Washington:** The Biden administration is calling on Congress to expand authority for federal and local governments to take action to counter the nefarious use in the US of drones, which are becoming a growing security concern and nuisance. The White House released an action plan that calls for expanding the number of agencies that can track and monitor drones flying in their airspace. It calls for establishing a list of US government authorized detection equipment.

### Urged

**Berlin:** The co-leader of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's party said that former Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, whose ties to the Russian energy industry have left him increasingly isolated at home, should leave the party. Saskia Esken, one of two co-leaders of Scholz's center-left Social Democrats, said in an interview with Deutschlandfunk radio that Gerhard Schroeder has been acting for many years now only as a businessman, and not as a former chancellor.

### Crash

**Eloy:** Authorities were investigating the crash of one of two planes that were part of a Red Bull stunt in which two pilots attempted to swap planes in mid-air over Arizona desert in US. The Federal Aviation Administration said the pilot of the plane that spun out of control and crashed ended up landing safely by parachute. The other pilot regained control of the second plane and landed safely. Local authorities say the plane crashed near Eloy, roughly 65 miles of Phoenix.

# On eastern front, Ukraine struggles to keep up morale

Barinkove, Apr 26 (AFP):

In the chaos of the battle for Barinkove on Ukraine's eastern front, the country's best-known singer, Sviatoslav Vakarchuk, appears in jeans and a bulletproof vest.

A soldier rushes up to the rockstar from the band Okean Elzy for a selfie. "We came to raise morale, to see the guys. Maybe I will sing something to them," the 46-year-old told AFP, guitar in hand.

"Their mood is great," he said. "I mean, they're not happy to be here of course, but they're very focused and determined and ready to win."

"That's why we're here, to (help them) understand that everything will be alright." But after two months under Russian fire on this unforgiving front line, it can be hard to sustain optimism. While soldiers have been trying to blunt the Kremlin's assault on the Donbas region, the offensive is now concentrated here.

"In terms of morale, the situation is complicated. It's far from rosy," Iryna



A Ukrainian serviceman looks at a Russian ballistic missile's booster stage that fell in a field in Bohodaroze, eastern Ukraine.

Rybakova, press officer of the 93rd brigade, told AFP. "Of course, we were prepared for this war, especially the professional army, but for those who've been recruited, it's more complicated," the soldier said. At the entrance to Barinkove, around five kilometres (three miles) from the Russian lines, six Ukrainian soldiers hold a checkpoint. They remain ready at any moment to dive into their trench, which they dig every day with a shovel. "Otherwise, we're dead," said Vasyl, 51, who serves on the front line with his son Denys, 22.

After a Ukrainian barrage, a dull roar signals the Russian retaliation.

A Russian shell, fired from a hill, thuds into a field. "They're just adjusting now — it will take a few minutes, then (the shells) will fall all over us and the town," warned Ygor, a 34-year-old soldier, with a grimace.

Nearby, an iron cooking pot sits on a makeshift stove, with carrots, potatoes and onions bobbing at the top of a modest broth.

Locals stepped up to supply the soldiers with everything, they say, except cigarettes. And offi-

cially, not a drop of alcohol can be consumed on the front. In a concealed bunker, six soldiers huddled on pallets, trying to sleep between their guard shifts. But in the Donbas, the night is even worse than the day.

Russia's army chooses nightfall to unleash its most powerful firepower "for psychological warfare", Rybakova, the 93rd brigade's spokeswoman, said as she surveyed the scene on the edge of a road. A three-metre-long cylinder lies in a field — a Tochka, an immense Soviet-era ballistic missile. The fearsome weapon exploded on Friday night near an abandoned school now used as a military base, leaving behind a crater with a diameter of about 15 metres (49 feet).

Russia on Friday said it wanted total control over east and south Ukraine to create a corridor to the Crimean peninsula, which Moscow annexed in 2014. Izyum and Kreminna are among the places to have fallen to Russia's advance in recent weeks, while Ukrainian forces focus on containment.

## Sri Lankans intensify anti-Govt protests



A Sri Lankan family protests to remove government in Colombo on Tuesday.

### Set up camp outside PM office

Colombo, Apr 26 (PTI):

Sri Lankan protesters, who have been camping at the main beachfront outside Sri Lankan President's Secretariat here, have now extended their protest to Prime

Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's office, as they intensified their demand for the government led by the Rajapaksa family to step down.

Thousands of demonstrators have hit the streets since April 9, as the government ran out of money for vital imports; prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed

and there are acute shortages in fuel, medicines and electricity supply.

The street protest opposite the presidential secretariat entered its 18th day on Tuesday, demanding the resignations of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, his 76-year-old elder brother.

The protesters have set up the Gota go home village' there.

To give impetus to the protest, the protesters have now set up a protest site Mahinda go home village' near Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's office-cum-residence known as Temple Trees.

Earlier, the Colombo magistrate court had refused to issue a police order preventing protests near the Temple Trees.

# Musk's free speech push for Twitter is like repeating history

San Francisco, Apr 26 (AFP):

Elon Musk, the world's richest man, is spending \$44 billion to acquire Twitter with the stated aim of turning it into a haven for 'free speech.' There's just one problem. The social platform has been down this road before, and it didn't end well.

A decade ago, a Twitter executive dubbed the company 'the free speech party' to underscore its commitment to untrammelled freedom of expression. Subsequent events put that moniker to the test, as repressive regimes cracked down on Twitter



A sign is pictured outside the Twitter headquarters in San Francisco.

users, particularly in the wake of the short-lived 'Arab Spring' demonstrations. In the US, a visceral 2014 article by journalist Amanda Hess exposed

the incessant, vile harassment many women faced just for posting on Twitter or other online forums.

Over the subsequent

years, Twitter learned a few things about the consequences of running a largely unmoderated social platform, one of the most important being that companies generally don't want their ads running against violent threats, hate speech that bleeds into incitement, and misinformation that aims to tip elections or undermine public health.

"With Musk, his posturing of free speech, just leave everything that would be bad in and of itself," said Paul Barrett, the deputy director of the Center for Business and Human Rights at New York University.

## Australian opposition party vows to train Pacific armies

Canberra, Apr 26 (AP):

Australia's opposition party promised Tuesday to establish a Pacific defense school to train neighboring armies in response to China's potential military presence on the Solomon Islands. The school was among a range of measures that the center-left Labor Party has promised to increase Australia's engagement in its region if the opposition wins elections on May 21.

Labor has criticized Prime Minister Scott Morrison's conservative



Penny Wong

government over a security pact announced last week between China and the Solomon Islands. Australia and the United States fear the deal could result in a Chinese naval presence less

than 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) from the northeast Australian coast.

There are also concerns that other Pacific island countries financially weakened by the pandemic and its impact on tourism could be lured by China into similar deals. Labor foreign affairs spokesperson Penny Wong said Australia needed to restore its place as the partner of choice in the Pacific region.

"Let's be clear, the prospect of a Chinese base less than 2,000 kilometers from Australia's coastline is dramatically detrimental to

Australia's security interests," Wong said. "That has occurred on Morrison's watch."

The Australia-Pacific Defense School would deepen institutional links between the Australian Defense Force and its regional counterparts while supporting the region's needs, a policy statement said. Opposition defense spokesperson Brendan O'Connor said Australia currently only provided some training for its neighbors' commissioned military officers and none for lower ranks.

## BORDER CROSSING



Palestinian workers arrive at last station in Beit Hanun in northern Gaza Strip before reaching Israel through the Erez border crossing on Tuesday.

## Without funding US will lose COVID treatments

Washington, Apr 26 (AP):

For much of the past two years, America has been first in line for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. Now, as drug-makers develop the next generation of therapies, the White House is warning that if Congress doesn't act urgently the US will have to take a number.

Already the congressional stalemate over virus funding has forced the federal government to curtail free treatment for the uninsured and to ra-

tion monoclonal antibody supplies.

And Biden administration officials are expressing increasing alarm that the US is also losing out on critical opportunities to secure booster doses and new antiviral pills that could help the country maintain its reemerging sense of normalcy, even in the face of potential new variants and case spikes.

Japan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Hong Kong have all placed orders for treatments and vaccine doses that the US

can't yet commit to, according to the White House.

Months ago, the White House began warning that the country had spent through the money in the 1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan that was dedicated directly to COVID-19 response.

It requested an additional 22.5 billion for what it called urgent needs in both the US and abroad.

The Senate last month closed in on smaller 10 billion package focused on domestic needs.

## Beijing enforces mass COVID testing



People line up to be tested for Covid-19 in Beijing on Tuesday.

Beijing, Apr 26 (AP):

China's capital Beijing is enforcing mass testing and closing down access to neighborhoods as it seeks to contain a new COVID-19 outbreak. Announcement of the testing had sparked panic buying in the city of 21 million, but the situa-

tion appeared to calm on Tuesday with public transport largely keeping to normal schedules and roads packed with commuters.

Fears of total lockdown have been fed by the situation in the southern business hub of Shanghai, where 25 million residents

have only gradually been allowed to leave their homes after three weeks of confinement.

The city of Anyang in central China and Dandong on the border with North Korea became the latest to start lockdowns as the omicron variant of the coronavirus spreads. Shanghai has buckled under strict lockdown conditions that have driven residents to band together to get food delivered through group buying. Goods have backed up at Shanghai's port, affecting supplies and factory production and crimping economic growth.

Beijing locked down residents in an area about 2 by 3 kilometers (1 by 2 miles), telling them to work from home and stay in their residential com-

pounds. It wasn't a total lockdown but stadiums, sports fields, cinemas, karaoke bars and other entertainment venues were ordered closed.

Elsewhere, the city also shut down some or all buildings in five residential compounds, adding to others have been locked down for two days. Beijing has recorded 80 cases in the most recent wave, while Shanghai has seen more than 300,000 and 190 deaths this month.

Beijing's local government has ordered Chaoyang district, home to some 3.5 million residents, to have three rounds of mass nucleic acid testing after the district registered the most COVID-19 cases in the capital's latest epidemic surge, official media reported.

## Wildfires tear across several US states, driven by high winds

Omaha, Apr 26 (AP):

Firefighters across the country are battling multiple wildfires as tinder-dry conditions and high winds whip up flames from Arizona to Florida including a prairie fire in rural southwestern Nebraska that has killed one person, injured at least 15 firefighters and destroyed at least six homes.

A break in the weather in parts of the Midwest and West allowed crews to make progress on some of the nearly dozen new large fires that were reported in recent days across the nation four in New Mexico, three in Colorado and one each

in Florida, Nebraska, South Dakota and Texas.

With more than 3,496 square kilometres burned so far this year, officials at the National Interagency Fire Centre said the amount of land singed to date is outpacing the 10-year average by about 30%.

Hotter, drier weather has combined with a persistent drought to worsen fire danger across many parts of the West, where decades of fire suppression have resulted in

overgrown and unhealthy forests and increasing development have put more communities at risk.

In northern New Mexico, evacuations remained in place for several communities and conditions were still too volatile for authorities to assess the damage caused Friday and Saturday.

The blaze has grown into the largest wildfire burning in the US, charring more than 228 square kilometres.

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खाण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)**  
 E-mail Id :- eemah-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone :- 07723-223731

**निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना**

इस कार्यालय का निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक 726 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96125), 727 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96126), 728 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96127), 729 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96128), 730 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96129), 731 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96132), 732 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96136), 733 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96140), 734 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96143), 735 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96147), 736 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96148), 737 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96149), 738 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96150), 739 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96151), 740 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96152), 741 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96153), 742 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96154), 743 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96155), जी.नं. 90245 648 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 93775) 657 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 94085) 659 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 94090) जी.नं. 66455 को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खाण्ड**  
**महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)**

G-90544/1



# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## Political prospects

Some Congress leaders have raised serious concerns over Prashant Kishor's Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) entering into a poll tie-up with the TRS in Telangana for next assembly elections in the state. The Congress is now posed with a serious challenge of ironing out this issue, more so because Kishor has had a tie-up with Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. The TMC has "poached" many Congress leaders in the recent past, much to the consternation of top party leadership. Telangana minister KT Rama Rao has warned Prashant Kishor amid talks of him joining Congress and claimed Congress revival is impossible. The I-PAC is working with multiple parties across the country. The negotiation between Prashant Kishor and Congress leadership is even generating controversies. As Congress faces successive electoral defeats and regional parties find no mojo in Congress leadership to win, the very existence of Congress as national party is being questioned. The major challenge for Congress is that political narrative has shifted in age of social media. Pre-independence, the Congress defined nationalism of India and forced British out of India. Now, BJP is redefining nationalism of India according to its vision and Congress is unable to present an alternative. The lack of narrative of nationalism by Congress is hurting its political prospect. Congress has announced that an 'Empowered Action Group-2024' will be constituted to address the political challenges ahead and a 'Chintan Shivir' will be organised in Rajasthan's Udaipur in May. The 'Chintan Shivir' will also deliberate on the broad strategy of the Indian National Congress for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Prashant Kishor had reportedly proposed to the Congress leadership last year that a non-Gandhi as party president would have a 'high' impact although the 'viability' of such an option is 'difficult'. This is as per an 85-page presentation that did the rounds on social media amid a renewed round of talks between Kishor and the Congress leadership on a revival roadmap for the party. The presentation suggests that the party should adopt these six foundational resolves to reinvent itself. Besides, it should take five 'strategic decisions' to fix the leadership issue, solve the alliance conundrum, reclaim the party's founding tenets, create an army of grassroots leaders and foot-soldiers and an ecosystem of supportive media and digital propagation. The presentation to Congress party leadership now has added and removed some strategies, as per reports. The old presentation underlines how the Congress has been in 'perpetual decline' since 1985 with its vote share in the Lok Sabha elections dipping since then. It says how the Congress has a 'jaded and aged leadership' and has not undertaken a structured pan-India membership drive in the last 25 years. The party, it says, has not conducted a nationwide protest or agitation that has lasted for more than 24 hours since 2014. The last mass public outreach campaign was the Bharat Yatra undertaken by Rajiv Gandhi in 1990. As for alliances, the presentation says that the Congress going solo will have low electoral success but will have high future impact. It, however, prefers a Congress plus model where the party contests in 70 to 75 percent of the Lok Sabha seats and forges strategic regional alliances. Meanwhile, the income of the Indian National Congress declined by over 58 per cent in financial year 2020-21, down from Rs 682.2 crore in the previous fiscal to Rs 285.7 crore, according to its audit report submitted to the Election Commission. The party's expenditure, too, dipped from Rs 998.15 crore in the previous fiscal year, which also happened to be the year of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, to Rs 209 crore in FY 2021, the report submitted to the EC on March 30 revealed. The Congress' income in FY 2018-19 stood at Rs 918 crore. It has continued to decline since then. Now is the time for Congress party to make a decision regarding its political prospects.

## Price stability

Indian equity benchmarks in the stock markets extended their losses from the previous week as the markets are worried about the rising inflation besides the likelihood of monetary policy tightening in the US. Policy tightening, which essentially means rate hike, is negative for the Indian market. Confederation of Indian Industry President, TV Narendran has said that inflation is primary concern for India's industrial sector. The spectre of inflation is once again stalking the countries around the world, after a long period of dormancy during which policymakers were more likely to be preoccupied by price deflation. Now, old debates have resurfaced on how best to restore price stability. If countries have a knee-jerk reaction to these policies, immediately endorsing one remedy while rejecting others out of hand, think again. Economics is not a science with fixed rules. Varying conditions call for different policies. The only valid answer to policy questions in economics is that it depends. Orthodox remedies for inflation often have costly side effects (such as bankruptcies and rising unemployment) and have not always produced the desired effects quickly enough. Price controls have sometimes worked, during wartime for example. Moreover, when high inflation is driven predominantly by expectations rather than 'fundamentals,' temporary wage-price controls can help coordinate price-setters to move to a low-inflation equilibrium. Inflationary pressure seems to derive largely from a transitory set of factors, such as the pandemic-related reallocation of spending from services to goods, and supply-chain and other disruptions to production. While expansionary monetary and fiscal policies have boosted incomes, these policies, too, are temporary. The alternative would have been a dramatic collapse in employment and living standards. Under current circumstances, then, policymakers in countries should not over-react to the spike in inflation. Transitory inflation calls for a restrained response, whether through regulation or monetary policy. The best argument against price controls is not that they are incompatible with science but that nothing so radical needs to be considered for now. The same caution would apply to orthodox policy as well. Inflation targeting, is itself a product of peculiar political and economic circumstances. India needs to consider price stability policy.

## VALLEY OF PAPAVER



Israelis visit a field of Papaver flower family as it blooms near the valley in central Israeli city of Beit Shemesh.

## Present day world is protected by video surveillance from space

**ERIK GARTZKE & BRYAN EARLY**

Spying from space has lifted the veil over the battlefield, diffusing the fog of war and lessening the utility of aggression. No one likes to be caught in the act. Homes and businesses use CCTV cameras as a deterrent against crime and to document criminal behaviour when it occurs. Something similar can be said to have occurred in the current Russian invasion of Ukraine. Cameras in space are recording the activity of the war, sharing the movement of Russian forces with all of us, and documenting their war crimes. Ordinary citizens watching the evening news will know more about Russian troop dispositions in and around Ukraine than many heads of state would have been able to access in previous century's conflicts. In a 2021 study, researchers found nations possessing reconnaissance satellites were less likely to be attacked than other states. Surprise is an attractive and useful force multiplier in war, an attacker that can invade unannounced is more likely to win a war or major dispute. Spying from space using satellite technology makes it much harder for a nation to achieve strategic, or even tactical surprise, especially when attempting to conduct a larger, more intensive attack. The number of governments possessing their own reconnaissance satellites remains limited but has steadily grown, especially over the past two decades. This includes SpaceX, a leading private space exploration company, placing a Ukrainian recon-

naissance satellite into orbit for the first time in January of this year. Open-source satellite imagery has become ubiquitous, but such imagery only became commercially available in 2000. The quality of satellite images' resolution has also dramatically increased. Possessing national satellites still provides governments with significant advantages in having real-time access to satellite imagery and offers the ability to direct where satellites look. The deployment of Russian troops in and around Ukraine has been the focus of intense interest and concern since Russian President Vladimir Putin began his country's armoured build-up in late 2021. The availability of 'eyes in the sky' meant Putin could not achieve strategic surprise. So, Putin did not try to hide the possibility of invasion. Instead, Russian officials capitalised on the prospect of an attack, making demands of NATO and the West to the point that many observers suspected Putin was bluffing. He was not, in part because of Russia's superior surveillance capabilities. The United States and the United Kingdom highlighted the risk of a Russian invasion, in several instances predicting the how, when and where of attacks to the point that Russian commanders were forced to adjust their invasion plans. As tanks rolled into Ukraine from the west of Russia, the annexed Crimean peninsula and Belarus, photographic evidence led to international condemnation and sanctions. Some have credited the widespread availability of surveillance imagery of the Russian build-up and invasion with assisting in both the pace and scale of the international reaction.

But even a generally effective deterrent fails some of the time. Surveillance cameras record violations of the law because criminals are sometimes foolish or brazen enough to commit their transgressions anyway. Such is the case with Putin's invasion. We have all witnessed in near real time the scope of the Russian president's ambitions,

attacking Ukraine on multiple fronts, with multiple apparent military objectives and political goals. Russian officials stretch our credulity when they claim, for example, that Russia only ever intended to solidify control over the region of Donbas (on the eastern edge of Ukraine), when we have all seen the photos of long columns of Russian military vehicles stalled on the roads leading to the capital, Kyiv.

The ability to document actions from on high allows the world to judge for itself whether Russian forces are targeting civilians. Russian denials that its forces were involved in war crimes are shown to be inconsistent with commercial satellite imagery detailing the location of bodies that were later recovered after Russian forces withdrew from cities like Bucha. Pictures of Mariupol, taken from space, show a city reminiscent of urban centres in the grip of World War Two. They tell quite a different story than official claims from Moscow.

Defeat in the north has led the Russian military to revise its focus of attack to the south-east of Ukraine. This is due in no small part to the impact of space surveillance on Russian plans. Satellite imagery has allowed international observers to track the progress or lack thereof of Russian armoured columns day by day. Much has been made of the success of Ukrainian forces in interdicting these columns, destroying a substantial amount of Russian armour and killing or putting to flight Russian troops. But successful interdiction requires intelligence; mobile Ukrainian units, armed with anti-tank weapons, such as the US Javelin missile or the British Next generation Light Anti-tank weapons, still require information on the location of tanks in order to intercept them. Some of this information has been gleaned by RPVs (remotely piloted vehicles), such as the Turkish-made Bayraktar drones. Video imagery taken by Bayraktars and other RPVs has been a staple on social media covering the

war. But even drones need to have an inkling of where to look. It is an open secret that Western intelligence agencies are actively assisting in Ukraine's defence. Utilising various resources, the US has provided Ukraine's government with timely satellite imagery and intelligence to assist its defensive efforts. One of the unique benefits of space surveillance is the ability to disseminate information about a nation's espionage efforts without compromising sources and methods. Unlike a human spy, a satellite can be seen to be spying and still continue to do so. National leaders contemplating aggression will have to reflect on the effect space reconnaissance technology has had in making aggression more difficult. Over the past weeks, Russian forces have re-deployed to eastern Ukraine to concentrate their aggression on the Donbas. We know this because it is being photographed. Ukraine's army possesses an important advantage that embattled defenders in the past often lacked. An attacker could 'screen' its movements, maintaining tactical surprise by preventing those in the defence from knowing where they would be attacked next. Today, Ukrainian soldiers already know where Russia is preparing to strike. This can aid the Ukrainian armed forces both in preparing their defences and in taking the initiative to counter Russian manoeuvres.

Spying from space has lifted the veil over the battlefield, diffusing to some degree the fog of war and lessening the utility of aggression. It has made it possible for the world to see and document violence and transgressions that in the past might be undocumented, ignored or disputed. It can be an important mode of protection, deterring aggressors and criminals and aiding in their containment or punishment if necessary.

(Erik Gartzke is professor at University of California and Bryan Early is associate professor at Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy in US.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Diplomatic mastery

In 1947 India became an independent secular republic because of the extreme sacrifices made by the countrymen and also partly because of WW-II, which totally crippled the British militarily and economically. They were no longer in a position to rule their overseas empire. After WW-II, the world got divided into two military blocs, namely NATO and the Warsaw Pact. To maintain an equidistance from these two Blocs, India started a new movement named Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) along with Indonesia, then Yugoslavia, Egypt and Cuba etc. In the meantime, China under Mao and Chou became independent and Nehru tried in vain to rope in China into NAM, but later on NAM died a natural death. Later on, China became a permanent member of UNSC leaving India far behind. The recently-released film 'The Kashmir Files' depict the torture of the Kashmiri Pandits. The recent role played by the Government during the time of crisis in Afghanistan and Ukraine, where the lives of thousands of Indians were at stake, very simply proves the diplomatic mastery of entire Cabinet. Before concluding, I must say that diplomacy and flamboyancy are poles apart.

Ashim, via email

### Autobiography

Gundappa Viswanath's autobiography 'Wrist Assured', launched last month, should rekindle memories of the gifted and stylish right-hander's glorious days of cricket. Vishy, as he is popularly known, was a connoisseur's delight. He raised his degree of batting excellence when others failed. He added plenty of colours to Indian batting with his repertoire of strokes around the wicket. Short in height but not in stature, one cannot visualize the Karnataka star without his trademark square-cut that would often whizz past the gully and point regions, leaving the fielders in awe and admiration. Among Vishy's many great knocks, his 97 not out against the West Indies at Chepauk in 1975 was easily the best as it defined his granite resolve in a crisis situation. It was a master-class knock scored against crushing odds and the fury of Andy Roberts, that eventually helped India win the Test. Later, the innings was best described by Sunil Gavaskar in his book, Idols: "His 97 not out is the finest Test match innings I was privileged to see."

Ranganathan, via email

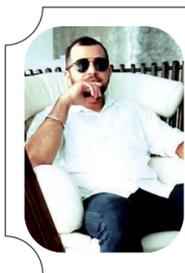


## WHAT THEY TWEET!

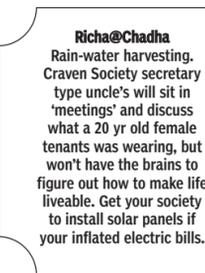


**Sunil@kulchandra**  
Probably the point which is missing is, they are all a bunch of career politicians. Objective is to remain in "Power". Idealism doesn't work for a politician. Remaining in power is the constant driver that makes them respond to things from which opportunities arises.

**Amana@Ansari**  
My biggest ideological fallout from the left was constant whining and no solutions, keeping the narrative of oppression alive by diving people into two groups and building careers and ignoring practicality. Not that I disagree with every idea they bring to the table.



**Vinyas@shetty**  
People from Mangalore, Udupi, other places migrate to Bangalore in search for jobs primarily due to lack of opportunities here and pay scale. However, few settled in Bangalore with good package eventually migrate to Gulf. Is it for better scale, lifestyle or any other reason?



**Richa@Chadha**  
Rain-water harvesting. Craven Society secretary type uncle's will sit in 'meetings' and discuss what a 20 yr old female tenants was wearing, but won't have the brains to figure out how to make life liveable. Get your society to install solar panels if your inflated electric bills.



**Jimu Mele@JimuMele**  
Lake 4th of Seven lake trek summit series of Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.



**Zucker@DoctorLFC**  
Bollywood celebrities will lecture you on health and fitness at every given opportunity on social media or during interviews but all it takes even for the richest of them to endorse a tobacco or alcohol product is the loophole of surrogate advertising. Role models my foot.

**Vinay@aravind**  
There should be more outrage about the fact that boosters under 60 in India are only available in private, and therefore unavailable to people who can't afford it. Why does the government not want poor people to get boosted? or is their desire to help corporates the priority?



**A** new movie is in the works based on actress-turned-author Twinkle Khanna's short story 'Salaam Noni Appa' from her 2016 anthology, 'The Legend of Lakshmi Prasad'. The yet-to-be-titled film will be jointly produced by Applause Entertainment, Ellipsis Entertainment and Twinkle's Mrs Funnybones Movies.

Sharing his excitement over the project, Sonal Dabral, the director, described the story as being "progressive, sensitive ... full of wit and observational humour, a hallmark of Twinkle Khanna."

The ad filmmaker added: "I couldn't have asked for a better debut as a feature film director. I'm looking forward to bringing this story to life in a way that will not only inspire people, but also be loved by all." Talking about the story's journey, Twinkle said: "'Salaam Noni Appa', from my second book, is loosely based on the relationship between my grandmother and her sister. It was first adapted into a lovely play." Commenting on the development, Sameer Nair, CEO, Applause Entertainment, said: "We're absolutely thrilled to adapt 'Salaam Noni Appa', a delightful story that defies convention, with Twinkle's irrepressible wit, and her distinctive gaze on love, life and relationships."

In a joint statement, producers Tanuj Garg and Atul Kasbekar of Ellipsis Entertainment promised that the film "will leave you with a warm, fuzzy feeling."

They added: "In line with our track record of identifying the best directorial talent from advertising, we're delighted to have leading ad-man Sonal Dabral helm the film."

## Twinkle Khanna's short story to be made into a film by Sonal Dabral

## Palak portrays as Jagannath's granddaughter Isha in 'Dosti Anokhi'

The variety of shows presented by Sony Entertainment Television has always managed to pique the interest of viewers and hits the right chord with the viewers. One of them is the slice of life drama, Jagannath aur Purvi Ki 'Dosti Anokhi,' which has successfully generated a lot of excitement among audiences since its very first episode. With its heartwarming narrative, the show gives a fresh perspective towards the precious relationships we hold sacred in our lives. The slice of life drama takes the viewers on beautiful journey of an elderly gentlemen, Jagannath Mishra (played by Rajendra Gupta) finding his lost sense of life's purpose through a young stranger-turned-friend Purvi (played by Ismeet Kohli). As they juggle through different worldviews and experiences to forge a sweet and iron-clad camaraderie, the show brings forth the nuanced facades of human emotions. Spicing up the drama further and adding tons of obstacles between Jagannath and Purvi is actor Palak Jain who portrays the character of Isha, Deepa's daughter and Jagannath and Kusum's grand-daughter. Hailing from Uttar Pradesh, Palak is a popular television face who has



charmed her way in the audience hearts with her acting skills. Essaying the role of fun loving and grounded girl Isha, Palak shares her excitement saying, "I have always wanted to work with Sony Entertainment Television because of the relatable content they offer to their viewers; I truly admire this. It was on my bucket list from the time I started acting. Now I feel I can finally tick that off, as I am stepping into the shoes of Isha!"

## Ambika Soni to essay Daruka's character in 'Baal Shiv'

**&**TV's Baal Shiv continues to entertain its viewers with its strong characters and compelling storyline, Mahadev Ki Undekhi Gatha. An exciting new character will be introduced to the plot soon, raising the show's entertainment level several notches higher. Actor Ambika Soni, who has made appearances in numerous south films and various fiction and mythological television shows, will be soon seen as Daruka in &TV's Baal Shiv.

Talking about her character and excitement to join &TV's Baal Shiv, Ambika Soni, aka Daruka, shares "My character Daruka is an evil demoness but also a devotee of Devi Parvati and has always worshipped her. Daruka's rigorous austerity impressed Devi Parvati and she granted her a boon to carry the beautiful Darukvan with her wherever she goes. The character is projected to be egoistic and greedy, known for her atrocious behavior towards others. Her character will bring an interesting twist to the show."

On her excitement about being a part of the show, Ambika adds, "I am excited to be playing this role. As an actor, I am ecstatic to have the chance to collaborate with such a talented and creative cast and crew. Baal Shiv is unlike any other mythological show I've seen; it has its own originality and essence, which defines it as a masterpiece. I'll do my best to hold the audience's attention and put on my best performance." Watch Ambika Soni as Daruka in &TV's Baal Shiv at 8:00 pm, airing every Monday to Friday!



## Isha Koppikar overjoyed with response to her Telugu series 'Dahanam'

**A**ctress Isha Koppikar, who was recently seen in the crime thriller series 'Dahanam', is over the moon with the response to the series where she plays a cop.

The actress is grateful and full of gratitude with all the love that is coming her way and the appreciation that's flowing in from all quarters.

Talking about the well received series, Isha said in a statement, "It's a proud feeling to be able to don the uniform, be it on screen or off screen as I feel that the one who wears the uniform shoulders responsibilities starting from that very moment."

"After receiving so much love from my near and dear ones I feel I did justice to my role. I am thankful to all for supporting me and I hope they continue to do so even in the future as I am more excited for 'Dahanam season 2'".

'Dahanam', which has been directed by Agastya Manju, is the OTT debut of 'Satya' director Ram Gopal Varma as a producer. The Telugu series presents an action-packed story of a son avenging his father's death. The series dropped on OTT platform MX Player on April 14.



## &TV artists share their favourite fan moments

The undying love of a fan turns an artist into a celebrity. We have come across several stories of fans talking about their favourite star and their love for them. However, in contrast, &TV artists talk about their fans, who have showered them with immense love and appreciation. These include Aan Tiwari (Baal Shiv, Baal Shiv), Pawan Singh (Ramesh Prasad Mishra, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?), Yogesh Tripathi (Happu Singh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan) and Shubhangi Atre (Angoori Bhabi, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). Shubhangi Atre

(Angoori Bhabi, &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) adds, "Every artist thrive on the love they receive from the audience, and I am blessed to receive so much love from my fans. But one gesture that touched my heart and I felt truly honoured was when I came across a lookalike goddess statue on social media. Many people had tagged me, pointing out how that idol looked like me. I was honestly quite emotional when I saw that picture. It was one of the most memorable moments to see someone going out of their way to show their love and affection to me. It truly made me feel very special. I will be forever indebted to the artist for this gesture."

Tune in to watch Baal Shiv at 8:00 PM, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? at 9:30 PM, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 PM and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 PM, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

## HOROSCOPE WEDNESDAY APRIL 27

### Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

A member of your household could be going through some rough times, Aquarius, and as a result might become overly dependent on your moral and emotional support. This is flattering, but it could also be a drain on your energy. Carefully consider what you really need to say to your friend.

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Some blatantly untrue gossip could reach you today, Pisces. When you think about it, you'll see that what you heard defies all logic and is actually rather ludicrous. However, the person who reports it to you could be so dynamic and persuasive that you believe it for a little while. Remember to check the facts in such situations.

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Aries, today you could feel the need to work on your finances - pay bills, make deposits, and plan a budget for next month - but your heart won't be in it. Your mind is probably on more interesting projects. If you try to force it, you'll be unable to concentrate, so it could be a waste of time. It won't hurt if you wait a few days.

### Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Usually, Taurus, you have pretty good powers of focus and concentration. However, today you might find that these powers are flagging. Working could be difficult, and you could even find yourself dwelling on disappointments from your past. You might want to stop and try to figure out why these memories are coming up now.

### Gemini: May 22 - June 21

A strange person promoting him- or herself as a mind-reader of sorts could come onto the scene today, Gemini. This person, however, is more mixed up than mindful. Therefore, take any predictions with a grain of salt, if not the whole shaker. Chances are good that none of them have any basis in reality.

### Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Your financial goals could seem vague and uncertain at this time, Cancer. Perhaps you face a crossroads in your life as far as income goes, and you might not be sure which way to go. Or else you could be planning to make some purchases and have a hard time deciding which are most important.

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

A colleague's motives could seem rather sinister today, Leo. This person has a definite agenda of his or her own that may not take into account the needs or feelings of anyone who could conceivably stand in the way. This person isn't to be trusted. Don't excuse his or her behavior.

### Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Today doubts may crop up for you concerning certain spiritual concepts that you've embraced for a long time, Virgo. Don't let this cause a crisis. It could just be a normal part of your inner growth. Instead, go back and read the old books that got you started, and then read some new ones and try to view the ideas from your current perspective.

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Some disturbing dreams could bring up doubts you may have about the motives of someone you consider a friend, Libra. This person might have been acting strangely, and you could be wondering about the future of your friendship. It's important to look at the symbols in the dreams and try to analyze what they're telling you.

### Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Some underhanded and not altogether honest machinations could be happening at the workplace, Scorpio. You could be offended by it, and you could also worry if it threatens your job. Then you might also consider what you're doing there, if it's that sort of organization. These inner conflicts could signify the need to focus on the realities and discern exactly what you want to do.

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

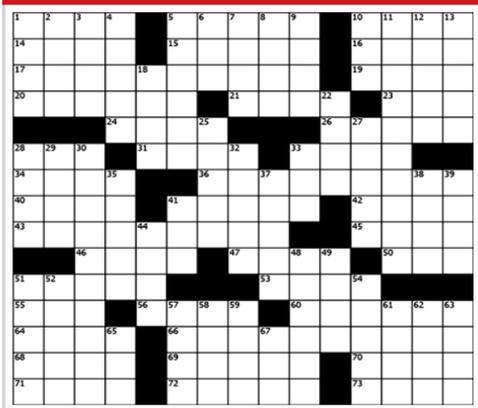
Today you might feel a little out of sorts, Sagittarius, and your concentration could be diminished. You might even have a little trouble focusing on your work. Don't worry about it. It's more mental than anything else, and it will pass. You might feel the need to drink coffee all day to stay alert. Try to exercise some restraint on this, since it could be counterproductive.

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Today doubts, uncertainties, and insecurities could plague a love relationship, Capricorn. Does your beloved share your passion? Is your friend being honest and open with you? Does this relationship have a future? The only way to get past this inner turmoil is to take one step at a time and take a good long look at the results of each step.

## CROSSWORD

282



- Knitting thread
- Sandwich shop
- Uppity person
- Pecan, e.g.
- Insulting
- Lincoln and Virginia
- Pro's opposite
- Stop!
- Fill again
- Idaho neighbor
- Unfitting
- Greek consonant
- Tenant's document
- Midway
- Thirst quenchers
- Type of poplar
- Driving aids

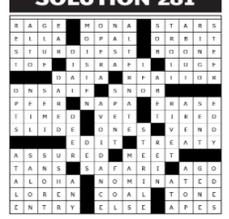
### DOWN

- Circle segments
- Big cat
- Land measure
- Fragment
- TV pooch
- Swiss peak
- Plan
- Sensible
- Make meet
- Snow runner
- Walker
- Sluggish
- Nuzzle
- Miscalculates
- Tiny stick
- Basil sauce
- Foe

### ACROSS

- Lamenting cry
- Slight error
- Revolve
- Affluent
- Poe's middle name
- Gambling game
- Communicate by letter
- The \_\_\_ of March
- Scoffs
- Big quiz
- Before, in verse
- Faucet problem
- Mae and Adam
- Greek letter
- Uses the eyes
- Isn't, incorrectly
- Dryer residue
- Stumbled
- Bloodhound's clue
- Shop
- Small rodents
- Submarine's viewer

### SOLUTION 281



## Battle of pace aces: It's Ferguson vs Umran as Titans face stern Sunrisers test

Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTD):

The speed gun radar will be functioning overtime when Lockie Ferguson's 150 click thunderbolts meets its match in rising pace sensation Umran Malik's toe-crushers as table toppers Gujarat Titans clash with close-on-heels Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL here on Wednesday.

The IPL newcomers are currently in the midst of a dream inception year with six wins from seven games at the halfway stage and are placed on top of the table.

Interestingly, the only loss that Titans suffered in its campaign so far was against Sunrisers in an earlier meeting and Hardik Pandya wouldn't mind a sweet revenge for that defeat.

However, the 'Orange Army's' bowling attack especially their four-prong fast bowling unit has been exceptional as one saw when they demolished RCB for 68 in its previous encounter.

The disconcerting bounce and movement created by Marco Jansen (6 wickets from 5 games) is ably complemented by Umran's (10 wickets from 7 games) fiery pace, T Natarajan's (15 from 7 games) deceptions off the



track and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (9 from 7 games) balancing it all with his experience.

So much so that a lightweight spin department manned by left-arm spinner Jagadeesha Suchith in absence of an injured

Washington Sundar, till now hasn't been a cause of worry for Kane Williamson and his band of men.

In fact, the rub of the green has gone SRH's way in this particular season as they now have five con-

secutive wins from five games where they have chased targets after the bowlers intimidated the rival batting unit.

For Pandya though, his bowling unit is no inferior to SRH as Mohammed Shami's artistry (10 from 7 games) and Ferguson's (9 wickets from 7 games) aggression has brought them a lot of success, not to forget Rashid Khan's (8 wickets from 7 games) ability to be more than decent even in a quiet year by his standards.

However, one area where Titans need to lift their game is Powerplay batting as Shubman Gill (207 from 7 games) has gone off the boil after his 96 and Wriddhiman Saha, replacing Matthew Wade, has been downright mediocre.

In fact, Saha's propensity to waste balls upfront (dismal SR of 83 in 2 games) in both the matches that he played so far has forced skipper Pandya (285 from 6 games) and David Miller (220 from 7 games) to up the ante even before they can take some time to play themselves in.

The chink in Titans armoury is not having a quality keeper-batter for the format as Wade hasn't really had a great time in the first five games that he got and Saha has always

been a player who takes time to settle down before he could play some shots.

There is Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz in the set-up but in order to play him, Titans would have to sacrifice a potent pace bowling option like West Indies pacer Alzarri Joseph, which won't be the most wise thing to do.

Abhinav Manohar and Rahul Tewatia would also like to be more consistent in the finishers' role rather than being like a flash in the pan for a match or two.

However, Titans' bowling attack has the ability to catch the SRH batting unit off-guard considering that it hasn't been tested a lot with young Abhishek Sharma (220 in 7 games) and No.3 batter Rahul Tripathi (212 from 7 games) doing bulk of the scoring in easy chases.

If Titans could breach through the Sunrisers top-order, most of the middle-order batters including the dangerous Nicholas Pooran haven't yet got a decent hit in the middle and the rustiness under pressure could keep Titans interested.

If they manage to upset SRH's rhythm, it will take them closer to play-offs in its maiden year in the championship, no mean achievement in a competition of this class.

Once we get going, KKR will be unstoppable: Iyer



Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTD):

Kolkata Knight Riders are enduring a torrid time this IPL but skipper Shreyas Iyer on Tuesday expressed optimism for a turnaround, saying the former champions would be "unstoppable as a team" once they get into their groove.

KKR have lost five out of eight games, including four on the trot, and are currently placed eighth in the 10-team standings.

"We got off to a really good start with three wins out of four games but after that things didn't go pretty well for us but I still believe in the team," Iyer told the official website of the team.

"We are ticking all the boxes to get on to the field and win matches. It's just the execution part (where we are lacking). It's just a matter of time once we get going, we will be unstoppable as a team," he said. KKR would be looking to emulate their 2021 turnaround when they won five out of their last seven games after managing just two wins in the first seven to storm into the qualifiers and finished as the runner-up side.

## Fleming hopeful of Moeen Ali's recovery

Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTD):

The under-pressure Chennai Super Kings is set to miss their senior pro Moeen Ali for a few more upcoming games due to an ankle injury but head coach Stephen Fleming is hopeful the England all-rounder can make a quick recovery in a week's time.

The England all-rounder had picked up the injury during a training session on Saturday. He missed Monday's game against Punjab Kings, which CSK lost by 11 runs.

He last featured in CSK's three-wicket loss to Gujarat Titans on April 17. "He rolled his ankle, X-Rays revealed there was no fracture but there is always a recovery period maybe seven days. We are hopeful the recovery will be quick given that there is no fracture," Fleming said at the post-match press conference on Monday.

Ali, who was one of the key members in the CSK side that won the title last season, has struggled with the bat and ball both in the ongoing edition of the league.

While Ali has scored 87 runs at an average of 17.40, including a 48 against Sunrisers, he has gone wicketless so far, conceding 68 runs in the eight overs that he has bowled.

CSK have been marred with injuries this season with pacers Deepak Chahar and Adam Milne



already ruled out of the tournament.

On Monday, Ambati Rayudu bruised his hand while fielding in the first innings and needed treatment. The batter then kept CSK in the chase smashing seven boundaries and six sixes in his 39-ball 78 after the top order failed once again.

"The first check was around the break and his hand was bruising. It was just a case of icing that and getting that down and I think a little padding around the glove.

"It was the same hand that was broken sometime back, so it's still pretty tender and a knock like that can obviously cause some damage," Fleming said.

The New Zealander defended the decision to send the out-of-form Ravindra Jadeja ahead of the MS Dhoni, who scripted a memorable three-wicket victory against Mumbai Indians in the previous game. The veteran wicket-keeper batter had hit a six and two fours in the final over to seal the match in CSK's favour.

## We are not getting good starts in first 6 overs: Jadeja

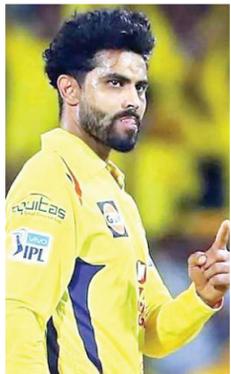
Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTD):

Chennai Super Kings skipper Ravindra Jadeja on Monday blamed his inept batting line-up for their poor result this IPL season, saying the inability to score runs in the first six overs was hurting the team.

CSK slumped to their sixth loss in eight games after going down by 11 runs to Punjab Kings in an IPL thriller here.

Chasing 188, CSK had a woeful start as they slipped to 40 for 3 in seven overs. "We are not getting good starts in the first six overs, that's where we are lacking and hopefully we will come back stronger," Jadeja said after the match.

Ambati Rayudu's 39-ball 78 kept them in the hunt before they could manage 176 for 6 in 20 overs. "He (Rayudu) was batting brilliantly, if we could've re-



stricted them to under 175 it would've been good. We felt we gave away 10-15 runs extra at the end. We did not execute our plans very well," Jadeja said.

With three consecutive sixes and a four from the 16th over bowled by Sandeep Sharma (1/40), Rayudu had kept CSK afloat but Arshdeep Singh conceded just six runs in

the next over and eight in the 19th to tilt the scale towards Punjab.

"I thought Arsh bowled exceedingly well, he has bowled the tough overs, he has been great for us. Even Rabada bowled well, to get Rituraj and get Rayudu at that stage. These two have been great for us," Punjab skipper Mayank Agarwal said.

Rabada, who returned with figures of 2 for 23, also heaped praise on his pace colleague.

"Arsh (Arshdeep) has been the best death bowler in the competition, that's what the stats say. He has got a lot of talent, drive and ambition. And he is just a good bloke. So nice to have him around. I know I am going to bowl at the death," he said.

"Arsh has been magnificent. He has been leading the way in that discipline."

## Badminton Asia Championships

### Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty pair sails to second round

Manila, Apr 26 (PTD):

India's top doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty cruised to the second round of the Badminton Asia Championships with a straight game win here on Tuesday.

The world number 7 and third seeded Indian duo hardly broke a sweat to register a 21-13 21-9 victory against the Thai pair of Apiluk Gaterahong and Natchanon Tulamok in 27 minutes.

Satwik and Chirag will next lock horns with Japan's Akiro Koga and Taichi Saito in the second round. Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto also advanced to the second round of the mixed doubles event. The Indian duo got the better of Hong Kong's Law Cheuk Him and Yeung Nga Ting 21-15 21-17 in half an hour.

However, it was the end of the road for the men's doubles duo of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala. Prasad and Pranjala fought hard but eventually conceded the first round tie to Kang Minhyuk and Kim Wonho of South Korea 10-21 21-19 16-21.

They will take on the winners of the tie between South Korea's Kim Wonho and Jeong Na Eun and the seventh seeded pairing of Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing of Malaysia.

Later in the day, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila will take on fourth seeds Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto of Indonesia in the men's doubles, while the mixed doubles Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhi Dewangan will be pitted against Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeava Oktavianti of Indonesia.

## In India, jealous gang wanted me to fail so I developed thick skin: Ravi Shastri

London, Apr 26 (PTD):

Robert Key will need to grow a "thick skin" akin to the Dukes ball just like I grew one to counter the "jealous people", former India head coach Ravi Shastri said on how the ex-England opener should go out about his job as ECB's Director of Cricket.

Shastri was at helm of India's coaching staff between 2014 to 2021, save one year in the middle when Anil Kumble was given the charge. In an interview to UK's 'The Guardian' newspaper, Shastri said that there was a "gang of people in India" who always wanted him to fail. Just like Shastri, Key has also been an acclaimed commentator for a long time and doesn't have a coaching degree as he tries to ease into a new and very different role.

"I didn't have coaching badges [either]. Level one? Level two? \*\*\*\* that. And in



a country like India, there is always jealousy or a gang of people willing you to fail. I had a thick skin, thicker than the leather of the Dukes ball you use. A real solid hide.

"And you need a bloody hide over here. Rob will develop this as he does the job, because every day you are judged. And I am glad he has a lot of captaincy experience from his time at Kent, because communica-

tion with the players is absolutely paramount," Shastri was quoted as saying by the British newspaper. From his own experience of working with the Indian team, Shastri feels that national teams across the cricketing world function in a pretty similar fashion. "Rob may have more work with the domestic game but, when it comes to the national team, it is very similar. The most important thing is getting among the players and setting a tone from the outset: what you believe in, what you think of them and changing the mindset to compete and win.

"You have to be bullish and brutish in wanting to achieve that. For us, and now England, it was about setting the challenge of winning abroad, big time. I was very firm when it came to team culture: all the prima donnas and all that shit, that had to go out of the window early," Shastri explained.

## Benfica ends 60-year European wait with Youth League title



Benficas team players celebrate the victory with the trophy after the victory during the UEFA Youth League final soccer match between S.L. Benfica Juniors from Portugal and FC Salzburg U-19 from Austria, at the stadium Colovray Sports Centre, in Nyon, Switzerland.

Nyon (Switzerland), Apr 26 (AP):

Benfica is a European champion again 60 years and 11 losing finals after the storied Portuguese soccer club's last title in a UEFA competition.

Playing on Monday in its fourth final of the UEFA Youth League, Benfica routed Salzburg 6-0 to claim the trophy.

Benfica's last European win was the European Cup in 1962, retaining the

trophy the Lisbon club won for the first time the previous year.

The six decades since saw Benfica beaten in the final five times in the European Cup, once in the UEFA Cup, twice in the Europa League, and three times in the UEFA Youth League that began play in 2013. According to club lore, the long losing streak was because of a curse by B la Guttman, the coach who left Benfica on bad

terms after masterminding the two European Cup titles. One of those Youth League losses was to Salzburg in the 2017 final.

The Austrian team was swept aside on Monday after Benfica led within 90 seconds through Martin Neto. Henrique Ara jo's hat trick, completed from the penalty spot in the 89th minute, was wrapped around goals by Italian youth international Cher N'Dour and Luis Semedo.

## Santosh Trophy is good platform to grab attention of big clubs: IM Vijayan

Mallapuram, Apr 26 (PTD):

IM Vijayan catapulted into instant stardom with his exploits in Santosh Trophy more than 30 years ago and the legendary former India captain wishes the same for the players of semi-finalists taking part in the 75th edition of the National Football Championship.

Hosts Kerala will play Karnataka in the first semi-final on Thursday while Bengal is pitted against Manipur in the second semi-final on Friday.

"All the players have a chance to prove themselves, especially the ones that have made it to the semifinal so far. This is one of the most prestigious tournaments in India, and they will be trying to prove themselves and catch the eyes of the top clubs," Vijayan, the greatest Indian footballer to have emerged from the state, told IFFI.com.

In fact, East Bengal club has sent its former stars Alvito D'Cunha and Sasthi Duley as talent spotters.



Santosh Trophy has been a big hit in Kerala with hosts game against Bengal being watched by a capacity crowd. "There have been so many fans that have come to enjoy the matches as Santosh Trophy is being held in Malappuram for the first time. Kerala fans are different, they are special. "I have seen them support me even when I played for Mohun Bagan against Kerala Police. I have also played for Bengal and missed a penalty in a tie-breaker against Kerala back when late VP Sathiyam was the captain. Kerala lost that match, but fans here still recall that game."

## Kean's winner moves Juventus closer to the Champions League

Reggio Emilia, Apr 26 (IAP):

Moise Kean's 89th-minute winner earned Juventus a 2-1 comeback win in a tricky visit to a talented Sassuolo side, marking a major step in Serie A for the Bianconeri toward securing a Champions League spot.

Kean, a substitute, controlled a pass with his back to the goal then turned his defender before shooting in through the goalkeeper's legs.

With four matches remaining, fourth-placed Juventus moved within one point of third-placed Napoli and eight points ahead of fifth-placed Roma with the top four qualifying for the Champions League.

Sassuolo, which features Italy forwards Domenico Berardi, Giacomo Raspadori and Gianluca Scamacca, had its range on full display when it took the lead in the 39th.

Berardi used his heel to flick on a through ball from Georgios Kyriakopoulos



Juventus' Italian forward Moise Kean celebrates scoring his team's second goal during the Italian Serie A football match between Sassuolo and Juventus at the Citta del Tricolore stadium in Reggio Emilia.

and Raspadori pounded it in from a sharp angle.

Raspadori became the first Italian player born since 2000 to score 10 goals in a single Serie A.

Juventus equalized six minutes later with a solo display of talent from Paulo Dybala, who un-

leashed a quickfire strike that was clocked at 110 kph (68 mph), which Sassuolo's defense appeared unprepared for.

It was Dybala's 81st goal in Serie A with Juventus, matching Cristiano Ronaldo for 10th place on the club scoring list.

## 'Depriving farmers of livelihood is violation of Constitution'

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

Depriving farmers of their livelihood and property without the authority of law would be a violation of the Constitution, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday.

A bench of justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Vikram Nath said there is no justification for not paying compensation to farmers for widening of roads.

"Construction or widening of road no doubt would be a public purpose but there being no justification for not paying compensation, the action of the respondents would be arbitrary, unreasonable and clearly violative of Article 300A of the Constitution," the bench said.

The top court's judgment came on a plea filed by eight farmers against a Kerala High Court judgment that dismissed their appeals.

The appellants are the owners of the land in dis-

pute, measuring 1.7078 hectares. According to the appellants, the panchayat had requested them to let their land be utilised for the construction or widening of the Sulthan Batheri Bypass road and they were assured that they would be given adequate compensation for the land.

However, no compensation was paid when the road was constructed, they said.

The appellants made various representations since the construction was going on and even after it was completed, but when no heed was paid to their request, they approached the high court.

The apex court said the appellants are farmers and the land utilised in this case was agricultural land.

"It was part of their livelihood. Depriving them of their livelihood and also of their property without authority of law would be violative of Article 21 and Article 300A of the Constitution," it

said. The top court said Article 300A, though not a fundamental right, has the status of being a constitutional or a statutory right.

"It provides that no citizen would be deprived of his property save without authority of law. Depriving somebody of his property, where it is land, can be made by a number of modes, for example by acquisition, surrender or by transfer and other facets also.

"In the present case, it being utilised for the road to be owned by the panchayat or municipality, it could either have been voluntarily surrendered, transferred by way of title deeds or by way of acquisition as may be provided under the statute," the bench said.

The apex court said to say that there was a substantial delay on the part of the appellants in agitating for their rights would not be correct.

It said the sole question for consideration would be as to whether the appel-

lants had voluntarily surrendered their land to the panchayat free of cost, without raising any claim for compensation.

"The panchayat as also the Public Works Department have failed to produce a single piece of document or evidence in any other form in support of their defence that the appellants have surrendered their land voluntarily.

"The consistent stand of the appellants, on the other hand, has been that they have not given their land to the panchayat voluntarily and that they would be suitably compensated," the bench said.

The top court said Article 300A clearly mandates that no person shall be deprived of his property save by the authority of law.

"In the present case, we do not find, under which authority of law, the land of the appellants was taken and they were deprived of the same.

## CBSE -TERM 2 EXAM



Students appear in the term 2 CBSE examinations for class 10, at an examination centre in Agartala, Tuesday.

## End politics of hate, ex-bureaucrats tell Modi

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

Over 100 former civil servants have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a hope that he will call for an end to what they termed as "politics of hate" allegedly practised "assiduously" by governments under BJP's control. In an open letter, they said "we are witnessing a frenzy of hate filled destruction in the country where at the sacrificial altar are not just Muslims and members of the other minority communities but the Constitution itself". Former Lt Governor of National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon, ex-foreign secretary Sujatha Singh, former home secretary G K Pillai and former prime minister Manmohan Singh's principal secretary T K A Nair are among

the 108 signatories to the letter. As former civil servants, it is not normally our want to express ourselves in such extreme terms, but the relentless pace at which the constitutional edifice created by our founding fathers is being destroyed compels us to speak out and express our anger and anguish, the letter said.

The escalation of hate violence against the minority communities, particularly Muslims, in the last few years and months across several states - Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, all states in which the BJP is in power, barring Delhi (where the union government controls the police) - has acquired a frightening new dimension, it said.

## HC for trial court judgment in former PM Rajiv Gandhi murder case

Chennai, Apr 26 (PTI):

The first bench of the Madras High Court on Tuesday called for a copy of the order of the Tada Court in Poonamallee, which had passed an order on January 28, 1998 imposing death sentence to all the 26 accused in the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated at an election public meeting organised by the Congress party at Sriperumbudur in the night of May 21, 1991. After a prolonged day-to-day trial for over six years, the trial court in Poonamallee delivered the judgment running to more than 1,000

pages in January 1998, imposing death sentence on all the 26 accused, including Nalini, her husband Sri Haran alias Murugan and A G Perarivalan and four others. The first bench of Chief Justice M N Bhandari and Justice D Bharatha Chakravarthy sought for a copy of the judgment today, when Nalini's petition seeking premature release, even without the consent of the State Governor, came up for further hearing. The bench wanted to know under what provisions of the TADA Act, Nalini was convicted and sentenced to death penalty (later commuted to life). The previous AIADMK cabinet in

September 2018, had passed a resolution and forwarded its recommendation to the then Governor to order the premature release of all the seven life convicts, under Article 161 of the Constitution. As there was no response from the Governor, Nalini and others had filed several petitions in the High Court for a direction to the Governor to consider their plea. But they were all rejected by the High Court.

Hence, Nalini filed the present writ petition praying the court to order her release even without the consent of the Governor. It was way back on 28 Jan, 1998, all the 26 accused

were sentenced to death by the Poonamallee TADA Court. On an appeal, on May 11, 1999, the Supreme Court had upheld the death sentence of four — Murugan, Nalini, Santhan and Perarivalan, commuted to life for three — Ravichandran, Robert Payas and Jayakumar and acquitted the remaining 19 accused, including photographer Subha Sundaram.

Upon the intervention of Rajiv Gandhi's widow and the then Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who petitioned for clemency for the sake of Nalini's daughter, the death sentence of Nalini was commuted to life imprisonment in April, 2000.

## India, Maldives plan transmission interconnection

For transfer of renewable power

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

India and Maldives plan to set up a transmission interconnection for transfer of renewable power between the two countries.

The proposal was discussed during the meeting between Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh and Maldives' Environment, Climate Change and Technology Minister Aminath Shauna in the national capital on Tuesday. Singh appreciated the resolve of Maldives government to achieve net zero emission target by 2030, according to a power ministry statement. During the meeting, both

leaders proposed two Memoranda of Understanding — on energy cooperation and on transmission interconnection under One Sun, One World, One Grid (OS-OWOG).

To facilitate Maldives' energy transition programme, a transmission interconnection for renewable power transfer has been proposed, the statement said.

A draft agreement is being prepared for the MoU on transmission interconnection under which a technical team from India would visit Maldives to assess the technical feasibility of the project.

## AZADI KI AMRIT KAHANIYAN



India's first woman firefighter Harshini Kanhekar (L), Anshu Jamsenpa (C), mountaineer and first woman in the world to scale summit of Mount Everest twice in a season, and environmentalist Basanti Devi, during the launch of 'Azadi ki Amrit Kahaniyan', a short video collection in collaboration with Netflix, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

## Amid scorching heat, parts of Mumbai, suburbs face power outage

Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTI):

Tripping at an important substation feeding power to the megapolis led to a power cut of over one hour in many parts of the country's financial capital on Tuesday, aggravating woes for people already battling sweltering heat amid a heat wave.

Lines at the Padgha substation located near Kalyan tripped at about 10 am, leading to a cascading impact that resulted in power disruption in large parts of the city, and adjoining parts in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. The power outage comes at a time when

Maharashtra is reeling under a power deficit of 3,500 MW, which has resulted in the state discom being forced to carry out 'load shedding' or compulsory power cuts in pockets to manage the demand-supply situation and safeguard the grid.

Typically, pockets in the city and well-paying consumers in the adjoining areas do not face such load shedding, but there have been at least two instances in recent past where large scale disruptions did happen.

The financial capital had faced a power outage on October 12, 2020, which took up to 18 hours to get fully restored, while there was another

incident in February this year on a weekend, which had also led to temporary stoppage of the suburban train services, considered as the city's lifeline.

Areas in central Mumbai like Mahim and Dadar reported power outages from 10 AM, along with suburbs like Mulund and Bhandup, which are serviced by the state discom.

Adjoining areas of Thane, Kalyan-Dombivili, Ambernath, Bhiwandi, Navi Mumbai and parts of the Palghar district also suffered as the load management in the face of disrupted supply led to suspension of supply, officials said.

## Solar, lunar eclipses on April 30, May 16 to elude city

Kolkata, Apr 26 (PTI):

There will be a partial solar eclipse on April 30 and a total lunar eclipse on May 16 but neither of the two celestial phenomena will be visible from the city and its neighbourhood, astrophysicist Debi Prasad Duari said.

The city will, however, be able to witness the next partial solar eclipse on October 25 and the partial lunar eclipse on November 8, he said.

The April 30 partial solar eclipse will be seen from the south and south-western parts of South America, Pacific and Atlantic oceans and most of the land mass of Antarctica but will not be

visible from this part of the world, the former director of M P Birla Planetarium said. "People in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia or in Antarctica can see the phenomenon. The solar eclipse always starts at one location and because of the spinning of the Earth ends at another location," he said in a statement on Sunday. The partial solar eclipse will begin around 6.45 p m universal time which will be May 1, 00:15 a m IST. The maximum for India will be around 2.11 a m on May 1 and end at 4.07 a m. As it will be night time in this country, no one will be able to see the cosmic event, he explained.

## RLY BOARD to GMS

## 'Expense on manpower unsustainable; surrender posts, redeploy, outsource'

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

With 67 per cent of its expenditure on manpower becoming "unsustainable", the Railway Board has issued instructions to the zones to identify and surrender posts that have become redundant due to technology. The employees in such posts should be redeployed where there is a need for manpower and, if required, some of the work can be outsourced, the board has said.

In a letter written to the general managers of all the railway zones, V K Tripathi, CEO and Chairman, Railway Board,

has said such posts should be identified and the redeployment of staff should be done within a month.

"Human resources are very valuable to Indian Railways. This is especially so during present times when 67 per cent expenditure is towards manpower and is showing an increasing trend, which in the long term seems unsustainable for the organisation. "It is imperative that the manpower is utilised effectively, efficiently and wherever essentially required. Therefore, there is a need to rationalise manpower utilisation to improve organisational agili-

ty," Tripathi has said in the letter to the GMs. He has also said employees working in categories where manpower is underutilised and non-essential can be "redeployed to more essential categories where vacancies exist and the work may be outsourced, if required". He has identified some of the categories — bearer, assistant cook, watcher, typist, sanitary helper, duffry, carpenter, painter, assistant bellow boy, laskar, gardener, assistant catering or salesman, catering or kitchen assistant, assistant catering vendor, valveman etc. Tripathi has pointed out

that employees are still deployed in the zonal railways in categories that have become redundant due to changes in technology, process or policy, like boiler shops and forging shops. "Employees in such categories may be suitably redeployed in categories where manpower is needed. Manpower deployed in categories that are low skilled and have low promotion prospects, like store khalasi, painter, carpenter etc. can also be considered for redeployment to those areas, where they are more needed and with better prospects," he has said.

## KHARGONE VIOLENCE

## Video calling for boycott of one community surfaces

Khargone, Apr 26 (PTI):

Days after communal violence rocked Madhya Pradesh's Khargone town, a video featuring a purported call to boycott members of a particular community has surfaced, leading the police to file a case against unidentified persons, officials said on Tuesday, while a second video shows local BJP MP Gajendra Patel goading people to give a 'tit for tat' reply to those who pelted stones during Ram Navami celebrations.

In the first clip, which went viral on social media, an announcement made on a truck-mounted sound system was heard giving the call to boycott the community members, accusing them of spreading violence in the town, which saw arson and stone pelting

● **BJP MP warns stone pelters** during Ram Navami celebrations on April 10 and where the curfew was relaxed for nine hours. Khargone's in-charge Superintendent of Police Rohit Kashwani said after they came across the video, a case was registered on Monday night against unidentified persons on charge of spreading enmity between different groups.

Karahi police station in-charge Parmanand Goyal said the case was registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony). The police came to know about the video on Monday night and its

content was being investigated and people involved were being identified, he said. He said as per preliminary information, the announcement purportedly heard in the video was made on April 19 in Katargaon, located nearly 60 km from the district headquarters. The announcer was heard requesting Hindus to boycott the "adharmi" (impious) and "pakhandi" (hypocrite) shopkeepers and give them a befitting reply while accusing them of stone pelting during a Ram Navami procession and burning the houses of Hindus in Khargone. Another video has also surfaced in which a group of women was purportedly seen taking a resolve to financially boycott "vidharmis" (heretic) by not purchasing from their shops and not selling stuff to them.



### BRIEF



Devotees visit shrine of Sheikh Baba Dawood (RA), popularly known as Batamaloo Sahab, during its annual Urs festival, at Batamaloo in Srinagar, Tuesday.

### Fire

**New Delhi:** A fire broke out at a shop and spread to other stores in Amar Colony's main market in Lajpat Nagar of southeast Delhi on Tuesday, Delhi Fire Officials said. No injuries due to the fire were reported, they said. A call about the fire was received at 2.40 pm, a senior fire official said.

### Grenade

**Srinagar:** Militants on Tuesday lobbed a grenade on a bus carrying CRPF personnel in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir but there was no damage done, officials said. The ultras hurled the grenade at the CRPF bus at Brazloo in Kulgam, the officials said. They said the grenade landed and exploded on the roadside and did not cause any damage.

### Lifer

**Thane:** A court in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced a 64-year-old man and his son to imprisonment for life for murdering the latter's wife. District and sessions judge K D Jadhav found Hari Nama Kavate and his son Malu (32) guilty of the offence registered under section 302 (murder) of the IPC and sentenced them to imprisonment for life and imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on them.

### Oath

**Lucknow:** The 36 new members of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, who were recently elected from local authority constituencies, took oath here on Tuesday. UP Legislative Council chairman Kunwar Manvendra Singh administered the oath of office to the newly elected members. All the members took oath in Hindi, while some of them raised the slogan of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai" after the oath-taking ceremony.

### Suspend

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan government on Tuesday suspended IAS officer Nannumal Pahadia and RAS officer Ashok Kumar Sankhla who were arrested in a bribery case in Alwar district, officials said. As per a directive issued by the Department of Personnel, Pahadia and Sankhla have been suspended from April 23 and they will have to report at the principal secretary, department of the personnel office, at the Secretariat in Jaipur.

**Weather**  
High 42 Low 28

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 17,200.80  
SENSEX 57,356.61

**BULLION**  
GOLD 51,660  
SILVER 65,169

### ANTI-PARTY ACTIVITIES

# Cong panel recommends suspension of Jakhar for 2 yrs

Removes KV Thomas from party posts

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Congress Disciplinary Committee on Tuesday recommended the suspension of its former Punjab unit chief Sunil Jakhar for two years and the removal of Kerala leader K V Thomas from all party positions for anti-party activities, sources said. The panel has also recommended that



Sunil Jakhar K V Thomas

Jakhar was removed from all party posts. The disciplinary committee of the Congress, which met here on Tuesday morning, also recommended the suspension of five party MLAs in

Meghalaya, who had supported the ruling Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) in the state, while defying the party's directives. The committee has given its recommendations to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who will take necessary action soon, the sources pointed out. The five-member committee is chaired by senior party leader A K Antony and Tuesday's meeting was attended by panel members Tariq Anwar, J P

Aggarwal and G Parameswar, besides Antony. Ambika Soni was not present during the meeting. Soon after the Congress disciplinary panel's recommendations, Jakhar wished his party "good luck" while refusing to reveal his own plans. "I wish the Congress good luck," Jakhar said when reporters sought his reaction to the panel's recommendation. He refused to comment when asked what would be his next step.

### KV ADMISSIONS

## Centre scraps MP quota, issues revised guidelines

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Centre has scrapped the discretionary Member of Parliament quota for admissions to Kendriya Vidyalayas, according to the revised admission guidelines issued by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. The move comes weeks after the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) put on hold all discretionary quotas, including the MP quota, for admissions to various central schools across the

country, following a review. The government has also decided that children orphaned due to COVID-19 will be considered for admission over and above the class strength in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) under PM CARES for Children Scheme. The admission will be done on the basis of a list given by the district magistrate, subject to 10 children per Kendriya Vidyalaya. The admissions for the 2022-23 academic session is underway till June.

### MHA REPORT

## 'Violence, deaths by Naxals reduced significantly'

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

The violence perpetrated by the Naxals has been reduced by 41 per cent and deaths by 54 per cent in the country in 2020 as compared to 2013 and the arc of such incidents has been considerably restricted with just 30 districts accounting 88 per cent of all Maoists violence. According to the annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2020-21, the Naxal violence was reported from 226 police stations in 53 districts spread

across nine states in 2020 as compared to 328 police stations in 76 districts spread over 10 states in 2013. The last six years have seen a significant decline in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) violence as well as the geographical spread of the LWE. The declining trend which started in 2011 continues in 2020 as well. There has been an overall 41 per cent reduction in violent incidents (1,136 to 665) and 54 per cent reduction (397 to 183) in LWE related deaths in 2020 as

## Naxalites attack CRPF camp, fire BGL rockets

Konta, Apr 26:

Naxalites suddenly attacked the Potkapalli camp of the security forces of CRPF at around 10 pm in Potkapalli, a Naxal-affected area of Konta block in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh. The Naxalites fired BGL rockets to damage the camp, but when the soldiers posted on the front retaliated immediately, the Naxalites fled from there. According to the information, Potkapalli camp of Konta block where Naxalites attacked from the forest at around 10 pm. To damage the camp, BGL bombs were fired, about 4 to 5 bombs fell on the camp but no one was harmed. At the same time, when the soldiers posted on the front immediately retaliated, the Naxalites fled from there.

## Prashant Kishor refuses to join Cong, says it needs leadership

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

Poll strategist Prashant Kishor on Tuesday declined the Congress offer to join the party and evolve its poll strategy and said more than him, the party needs leadership and collective will to fix deep-rooted structural problems through transformational reforms. Kishor was asked by Congress president Sonia Gandhi to join the party and be a part of the Empowered Action Group-2024 and take care of its election strategy for upcoming polls. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said Kishor has declined the offer and the party appreciates his efforts and suggestions.



Kishor had made a detailed presentation before top Congress leaders, which was discussed at length by senior leadership of the party, after which an offer was made to him. Within a few minutes of the Congress saying that Kishor has declined the offer, he took to Twitter and said the party needs a collective will to fix deep-rooted structural problems through reforms.

### ASSAULT CASE

## Mevani sent to 5-day police custody

Barpeta, Apr 26 (PTI):

Dalit leader and independent Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani was remanded to five days in police custody on Tuesday by a court in Assam's Barpeta district in an assault case filed by a woman police officer. Chief Judicial Magistrate Mukul Chetia remanded Mevani to police custody when he was produced in his court in the afternoon. This is the second case filed against the Dalit leader from Gujarat in

Assam. Mevani's lawyer Angshuman Bora said they will move the court for bail on Thursday. The Gujarat MLA had earlier on Monday been released on bail by a court in Kokrajhar in another case related to a tweet by him on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, only to be re-arrested in a case slapped on him for assaulting a policewoman who claimed that he assaulted her while he was being brought by a police posse from Guwahati to Kokrajhar.

## Covaxin cleared for 6-12 age group, Corbevax for 5-12 yrs old

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

India's drug regulator has granted restricted emergency use authorisation for Biological E's COVID-19 vaccine Corbevax for those aged five to 12 years and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for chil-

dren in the age group of six to 12 years, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday. The approval by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for Corbevax and Covaxin for inoculating children below 12 years paves the way for giving

protection to a majority of school going children and assumes significance ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with chief ministers on the emerging COVID-19 situation in the country on Wednesday through video conferencing.

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# Demand at Jandarshan to protect trees planted by Late Gendlal Deshmukh

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

Environment lovers of the district on Tuesday reached the Collector Jandarshan and submitted an appeal to protect the trees planted by Late Gendlal Deshmukh. An environment protector to the core, late Gendlal Deshmukh planted around 300 saplings of Banyan, Peepal, Neem etc from Kodia to Maharaja Chowk in Durg.

Those have now grown up to towering trees but there is a possibility of those being cut for the road construction proposed by the Public Works Department. Environment lovers submitted suggestion that an alternative route can be selected by the department nearby so that there is a minimum possibility of cutting trees. Among the environment lovers who met the Collector were Romshankar Yadav convener of Hitwa Sangwari and Lalit Verma, Vipin Verma of Harit Kranti Sangh, Risali. In this regard, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure directed the officers to choose such options for widening the road in which there is a possibility of either no cutting of trees or minimum cutting of trees.

Many citizens are playing active role in the cause



of society. These citizens are engaged in making unique experiments to bring the benefits of Jandarshan to the general public and are submitting applications related to public concerns here. Under this, an applicant also applied before the Collector seeking Lok Sewa Kendra based on the population of the area. The applicant says that in the present scenario having identity card is very important for every person.

Whether it is to fill the form or to take advantage of the government scheme, it is necessary for everyone to have identity card such as Aadhar card

or other such cards. The Lok Seva Kendra remains closed on every Saturday, but in view of the population density, if such centres are opened on this day also, it will be convenient for the citizens. The collector took the application and sent it to the concerned officer and ordered for speedy redressal.

A person from Khursipar had reached the Collector Jandarshan regarding the problem related to BPL ration card that he faced. In the application he mentioned that a few months ago a camp was organized to collect application for BPL and APL ration card in his ward. He also applied for

BPL Had ration card, but his card could not be made. When the applicant sought information regarding this from the Municipal Corporation, the Municipal Corporation informed that his name was not mentioned in the survey list. The applicant says that in the survey conducted in his area, he and his family had given their details, and he also has acknowledgment is with him. Even after submitting this acknowledgment, his problem is not getting resolved. In the absence of the card, apart from ration, the applicant and his family are deprived of other government schemes, so he sought for redressal from the collector.

The Collector sent the matter to the concerned officer and directed for speedy disposal. Applications related to demarcation etc have also come in Jandarshan. The Collector directed for effective disposal of all the applications.

# Knowledge Sharing Session organised at HRDD

Retiring CGM shares his Rich Experience with Younger Generation of Employees in Coke Ovens & Coal Chemicals Dept

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

A knowledge sharing session was organized by CO&CCD in association with Safety Engineering Department (SED) and Human Resource Development Department (HRDD) to share knowledge and experience of CGM (CO & CCD) GA Rao who will be superannuated next month. The program was held in presence of senior officers of CO & CCD, SED and HRDD in the Mini Conference Hall of HRDD on April 26, 2022.

The program of knowledge sharing session was based on Introduction to chemical hazards with case studies and relevant section of Factory Act, confined space hazards and mitigation, experience of handling emergency situations in CO &



CCD with case studies from across the entire steel plant. CO & CCD has for the first time taken this kind of initiative to minimize the knowledge gap between the older and young generation.

Rao shared his life time experience in such a manner, presenting real life case studies one by one of incidents, near miss cases, accidents, breakdowns and observation that all the participants were absorbed throughout the session. Several participants expressed their desire for organising more such interactions.

In inaugural session, Sanjay Aggarwal, GM

(SED) thanked CO&CCD collective for taking such steps for knowledge sharing towards creating safe working atmosphere. S Roychoudhury, Rakesh Joshi, B Paswan, S K Haldhar were present in the session along with other officers and workers.

At the concluding session, Sanjay Dhar, CGM (HRD&BE) highlighted the need for sharing and thereby transferring GA Rao's rich and vast knowledge not only to the younger generation but also the entire coke and steel making fraternity. The program was coordinated by Ajay Tallo, Mrg SED and BC Mandal, DSO (CO&CCD).

# SRJS youth wing president Manish visits Delhi

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

Shri Ram Janmotsav Samiti's youth wing president Manish Pandey recently visited New Delhi and during his stay he met top leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party and discussed various issues of Bhilai. During this, he also detailed about the activities of Shri Ram Janmotsav Samiti in bringing religious awareness and works of public interest. The leaders praised the committee and extended their best wishes for future activities.

Manish said that during his stay in Delhi, he had a courtesy call on BJP's National General Secretary and Chhattisgarh in-charge D Purandeshwari and National Spokesperson Sambit Patra.

During this, he gave information about various programs related to public interest including Dharma Jagran Pakhwada organized by Shri Ram Janmotsav Samiti. He also provided elaborate detail about the Sri Ram Navami program organized by the committee for the last 36 years. After that, various subjects and political situations of the state including Bhilai were also discussed.

# Progress of Hemchand Yadav University is commendable: Governor

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

On the completion of seven years of the establishment of Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, the Governor of Chhattisgarh Anusuiya Uikey said that the progress made by the University in every field is commendable. Despite limited resources, officers and staff this University has performed its functions at par with other big universities of the state. The Governor was releasing a souvenir focused on the successful seven-year journey of Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, "Seven Years Pleasant Journey of the University from 2015 to 2022" at a function held at Raj Bhavan, Raipur on Tuesday. Praising the achievements of the University in the last seven years, the Governor congratulated the Vice



Chancellor of the University, Dr Aruna Palta, Registrar Bhupendra Kuldeep and all other officers and employees present at the function. The Governor suggested said that from the new academic session, the university should also start teaching-learning system. Giving information in this regard, Vice Chancellor, Dr Aruna Palta said that a detailed proposal has been sent to

the Higher Education Department, Government of Chhattisgarh which is under consideration in the Higher Education Department. As soon as the approval in this regard is received from the Higher Education Department, action will be taken accordingly. The Governor also discussed about the delay in the completion of the construction work of the University building and said that she

herself would instruct the officials of the Public Works Department to complete the work at the earliest.

Vice Chancellor Dr Palta and Registrar Bhupendra Kuldeep jointly informed the Governor that at present, 2,22,000 students have appeared online in the examinations of Hemchand Yadav University, Durg including regular and private students. Most of the 143 col-

leges in the five districts of Balod, Bemetara, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Kabirdham under the university are involved in the process of NAAC evaluation. Under the university, there is one college with A grade and one private college with A grade. Apart from these, four colleges have recently got B grade. The university has signed MoUs with five national level institutions in the interest of students. In the field of NSS,

NCC, and sports, the university has made its mark at the national level. Under the university, five professors from different colleges have got international patents. The University has organized useful webinars and other activities online even during the Covid-19 transition period. More than a thousand video lectures are available for the students on the official website of the university.

Also present at the ceremony organized at Raj Bhavan, were officers of the University Student Welfare, Dr Prashant Srivastava, Deputy Registrar Dr Rajmani Patel, Rajendra Chauhan, NSS Coordinator Dr RP Agarwal, Sports Director Dr Lalit Prasad Verma, Assistant Registrar Dr Sumit Agarwal, Himanshu Shekhar Mandavi and others.

# Light, Sound & Laser Show on Saint Mother Teresa wins much appreciation

**Bhilai, Apr 25:**

A unique Light Sound and Laser show based on the biography of Bharat Ratna Saint Mother Teresa was organized in the auditorium of Sree Narayana Guru Dharma Samajam (SNGDS) School Sector-4 on April 24. The show presented under the direction of Supriyo Sen in a packed hall was highly appreciated by the special guests and audience.

Chief guest, Archbishop Dr Henry Thakur, Raipur Archdiocese, in his address, referring to the speech given by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh at Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi during the program organized in the consecration ceremony of Saint Mother Teresa, said that Alexander came here to attack and win-but he did not succeed, while Mother Teresa came to India to win the hearts of the people and she ruled the hearts of millions and crores of people not only in India but around the world. He also honoured 9 (Nine) Sister from Missionaries of Charity, Bilaspur, Raipur & Bhilai by presenting Shawl & Shreefal. Arun Vora, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Warehouse Corporation and Durg MLA who was present as special guest said that Mother Teresa was the

epitome of humanity in true sense. Recollecting a two day visit by Mother Teresa, he said that we were fortunate to have had Mother Teresa here to spread message of humanity residents. He said that this show should be staged in every school so that children can become familiar with the service



best wishes to the organisers and promised to attend the next show. At the outset, Father John Vettiyolil of Raipur, who translated the drama in Hindi, welcomed the guests. He especially thanked TM Abraham for writing a drama on Mother Teresa in Malayalam. He specifically mentioned that the show has been composed

Sen and his team as well as Dr T Unnikrishnan, VK Sundaresh, eminent bhajan singer Prabhanjay Chaturvedi, Ullas Kumar, Sunil Johnson, Anthony Francis, Ravindra Nath Gautami Chakraborty and others. Proposing the vote of thanks, Lawrence Sylvester specially thanked the Sree Narayana Dharmaguru Samajam Sansthan and all the sponsors. Other guests on this occasion were Dhiraj Bakliwal, Mayor, Durg, Rev Thomas Ramban, MGM Cathedral, VK Mohammed, Ex-President, SNGDS, and Shiju Antony, General Secretary, Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee, Sister Stephany, Sister Superior, Missionaries of Charity Bilaspur. Dilip Mohanty, President (HR) Jaysawals NECO Industries, Shipping Corporation of India's Ex-Director Personal SPS Jaggi, Bhilai Steel Plant Ex-General Manager Incharge P&A Madhuri Menon, YMCA Bhilai President TK Joseph, Vijay Dhawala, Managing Director, Dhawalas Bhilai, PRN Pillai, Ex-President, Malayala Granthshala, President of SNGDS VK Babu and Sister of Missionaries of Charity Bhilai, Bilaspur and Raipur were specially present.



Jha and Risali Mayor Shashi Sinha who could not attend the event due to various reasons, sent their

by Pushpa Ambrose, General Manager, SMS-3, BSP. He also thanked the show's director Supriyo

# Bar & Rod Mill creates New Production Record

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Modex Unit, Bar & Rod Mill has once again created a new day record as well as shift record. On April 25, 2022, Bar & Rod Mill set a new day record by rolling out 1562 billets to produce 3218 Tonnes of TMT 16 mm Bars, surpassing the previous best of 1476 billets rolled and 3035 T of TMT 16 mm Bars on March 20, 2022. A new shift record was also created by BRM. As many as 614 billets were rolled in C shift on April 25, 2022 with 1265 T production of TMT 16 recorded. The previous best shift record was set a couple of days earlier on April 23, 2022 with 580 billets rolled in C Shift and 1195 T production of TMT 16 recorded. Mukesh Gupta, CGM (BRM) congratulated the entire BRM team for the record-breaking performance.



# DGP puts rank insignia on newly promoted IGP BN Meena

**Bhilai, Apr 26:**

Director General of Police Ashok Juneja and Additional Director General of Police (Administration and Selection) Himanshu Gupta pinned rank insignia on the newly promoted Inspector General of Police Badri Narayan Meena during a simple ceremony held at Police Headquarters in Raipur on Tuesday. Badri Narayan Meena has been promoted and positioned as Inspector General of Police (Durg Range).



## Undisputed mutation cases be resolved at earliest: Baghel

**CM reviews works of revenue department**

**Special drive should be run for the matters related to the rectification of land records**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Apr 26:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has given instructions for early disposal of pending revenue cases of undisputed mutations and divisions during the review of works of Revenue Department at his residence office here today. He said that the cases related to demarcation of land should be disposed of by 31st May, as well as the cases related to rectification of land records should be resolved in two months by running a special drive. This includes pending cases like map allocation, record rectification.

He has instructed to ensure the presence of



Patwaris at the headquarters and to fill vacant posts in tehsils soon. Revenue Minister Jaisingh Agarwal, Chief Secretary NN Ekka, Director Land Records Dharmesh Sahu, Deputy Secretary to Chief Minister Soumya Chaurasia, Director Public Relations Saumil Ranjan Choubey were present in the meeting.

Officers gave information about the resolution of revenue cases and vari-

ous schemes of the revenue department during the review meeting. Chief Minister Baghel said that Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumihin Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana is a unique scheme in the country in which landless laborers are being provided an assistance of Rs 7000 annually. The beneficiaries to whom the amount is being given should be informed at the gram panchayat level before getting the amount and written information should be given at the time of payment of

each installment, he emphasized.

The Chief Minister directed the Revenue Secretary to write a letter to the collectors to resolve the cases of undisputed mutations, division, demarcation, diversion within the time limit. The Chief Minister directed to expedite the work of granting land owner rights to the beneficiaries in Nazool and Slum Pattas. He said that a letter should also be sent to the collectors in this regard.

It was informed in the meeting that after visiting the rural areas, the commissioners are meeting the villagers directly and taking information regarding the status of settlement of revenue cases. The Chief Minister appreciated this initiative taken by the commissioners for speedy disposal of revenue cases. He said that allotment, settlement, freeholding and settlement of land rent cases up to 7500 square feet should be reviewed by the commissioners during their visit to districts and reports should be sent to

the state government. Similarly, he directed to update the information about the distribution of abadi pattas in rural and urban areas. The Chief Minister said that basic facilities should be provided in tehsil offices and good seating arrangements should be made for the employees and beneficiaries. While reviewing the status of redressal of cases of felling of trees, the Chief Minister said that the rules for felling trees on land owned by the land owners have been simplified by the State Government.

According to this the land owner will have to inform the SDM in the prescribed form for the cutting of trees planted on his own land. If the trees have grown naturally, then the land owner will have to obtain written permission from the SDM for the felling of such trees. The time limit for granting permission has also been fixed. The Chief Minister directed to promote these amendments made in the rules so that the needy people can get the benefit of it.

### 'SELECTION'



Girls selecting toys of 'Gudda-Gudiya' for the festival and ritual of Akshay Tritiya' here on Tuesday.

## Ch'garh logs six COVID-19 cases, no fatality

**Raipur, Apr 26:** Chhattisgarh on Monday reported six fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the state's tally to 11,52,241. The death toll remained unchanged at 14,034 as no fresh fatality was reported due to the viral infection, an official said. The positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, stood at 0.12 per cent, he said.

The overall recovery count in Chhattisgarh rose to 11,38,184, leaving the state with 23 active cases, he said. "Balrampur recorded two cases followed by one in Bilaspur among other districts. No new coronavirus cases were reported in 23 districts. As of Monday, no active cases were reported in 14 districts in the state," the official said.

With 4,833 samples examined during the day, the tally of tests carried out so far in Chhattisgarh went up to 1,76,19,635, he added. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,52,241, new cases 6, death toll 14,034, recovered 11,38,184, active cases 23, today tests 4,833, total tests 1,76,19,635.

## CSPTCL energises 9th power transformer

**In Khedmara sub-station**

**To help state get power from central power grid**

**Will ensure quality power supply to capital and other cities**

**Total power transformers in state increases to 9**

**Raipur, Apr 26:** In view of increasing power load due to summer season, Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company (CSPTCL) has established a new power transformer at 400 KV sub-station of Khedmara Bhillai. This will help in taking the power as



per the agreement from the central pool to the state. Chairman Chhattisgarh State Power Company (CSPC) Ankit Anand (IAS) has extended greetings to CSPTCL team for this achievement.

This new power transformer was recharged at the hands of MD CSPTCL SD Telang. With re-charging of this Power Transformer, there will be uninterrupted power supply in capital city Raipur, along with Durg-Bhillai and

Rajnandgaon and Bemetara district.

It is notable here that Khedmara sub-station is the oldest sub-station of CSPC and the power is supplied directly from Korba. During undivided MP, Khedmara was the only 400 KV sub-station of CSEB. There are two power transformers of 315-315 MVA in Khedmara and with installation of this third transformer, it total capacity has been hiked to 945 MVA.

It is notable here that the

actual power demand in state has now reached 5300 MW. Though there is power available from the central pool to the state, but for this high capacity transformer is required to take power from the central grid. At present there were only 8 transformers of four 400 KV high-tension sub-stations.

But with installation of 9th HT transformer in Khedmara, it will be easier for the state to receive power from the power plants coming under Central Power Grid and this will help solve the voltage problem not only for domestic consumers, but also for the industrial units.

On this occasion Company's CE DK Chawda, SE Sunil Bhurya and other engineers and employees were present.

## Shiv Sena resorted to hooliganism: Athawale

**Demands President's rule in Maharashtra**

**Raipur, Apr 26:** Union Minister of State for Social Justice and National President of the Republican Party of India, Ramdas Athawale, has demanded President's rule in Maharashtra. Talking to the reporters at New Circuit House in Raipur, he said that his party wrote a letter to the central government yesterday and made a formal demand for it. He also said that he himself would raise this demand by meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah in a day or two.

Athawale alleged attempts to create communal conflicts in Maharashtra. Raj Thackeray, president of a



political party should not play a role which creates disputes in the society, Athawale said. If he wants to recite Hanuman Chalisa, then he should do it in front of the temple but the way he speaks of removing loudspeakers from mosques is unfair, he said. Athawale also questioned role of other community.

According to him some Maulanas of Muslim community are also giving irresponsible statements.

They should also take care of the security of Muslim community, he said. The Union Minister also said that Maharashtra government utterly failed to maintain law and order. MP-MLA Navneet Rana and Ravi Rana have been put in jail by the state government. A case of sedition has been imposed on them for announcing the reading of Hanuman Chalisa at the Chief Minister's residence. Recently, former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis was called to the police station. Shiv Sainiks pelted stones on BJP leader Kirit Somaiya.

He has also alleged attempt to misuse government machinery. Attempts are being made to create disturbance in most of the places. The way the ruling Shiv Sena people are committing hooliganism is not

a good thing. If you want to do hooliganism, then come out of the government. The situation in Maharashtra is worrying, he said. His party demands President's rule there. Only then can the law and order situation be improved there.

On the question of inflation, Union Minister Athawale said 'inflation has increased, but it is the responsibility of both the Center and the state'. He talked about reducing taxes to deal with inflation. According to Union Minister all the states get their budget under the system. Chhattisgarh will also get adequate budget. Everyone has the responsibility of social justice. On the question of the 22 trains of Chhattisgarh, the Union Minister said 'we will talk about restoring the operation of trains'.

## Congress gheraoes DRM office

**In protest against step to halt services of trains in Ch'garh**

**Submits memorandum addressed to Railway Minister demanding immediate restoration of train services**

**Raipur, Apr 26:** Congress gheraoed the DRM office here today and demanded restoration of services of some trains in Chhattisgarh and expansion of railway facilities. The party also submitted a memorandum to the Railway Minister. Hundreds of workers and railway passengers, led by Pradesh Congress Committee president Mohan Markam, gheraoed



the DRM office. Slogans were raised against the BJP government at the center for the step to halt services of some trains in Chhattisgarh.

According to Congress, the services of 23 trains passing through Chhattisgarh were halted by railways suddenly canceled on April 22 without any alternative arrangement. According to the party people and daily

commuters are facing inconvenience due to halt in train services.

Examinations of students are going on, a large number of government and private employees travel regularly. Businessmen and common people reach their destination. At such a time, the step to suddenly halt services of 23 local and express trains is causing inconvenience to the people of the

**Three trains restored**

**Raipur:** On cancellation of 23 trains passing from South East Central Railway (SECR) and subsequent problems being faced by the passengers during summer season and request by the CM to PM and talks with the Railway Minister, Indian Railways have taken a decision to restore three trains as on Tuesday. The three trains include Korba-Amritsar -Korba; Sikandarabad-Raipur-Sikandarabad and Samta Express. The above three trains will now be running as per their schedule timing from tomorrow.

state.

The arrangement should be resumed for getting tickets for all local and express trains on the railway plat-

form. Arrangements should also be made for issuance of monthly pass for local trains.

According to Pradesh Congress President Mohan Markam for the first time after independence step has been taken to halt services of 23 trains passing through Chhattisgarh. He alleged conspiracy to increase price of electricity and coal by creating artificial coal crisis. According to him freight trains are running unabated on the route where the passenger trains have been stopped.

Demanding that BJP government at the centre must immediately restore operation of trains passing through Chhattisgarh to give immediate relief to the people of the state he warned of intensifying the protest.

## Maheshwari brothers won two medals in Khelo India Games



**Raipur, Apr 26:** Maheshwari brothers from Durga College have won two medals for Pt Ravishankar Shukla University Chhattisgarh in

the Khelo India University Games underway at Bangaluru. Similarly, Rajbala has also secured a medal in the Boxing event. According to the infor-



mation received, Vijay

**Rajbala secures medal for Pt RSU in Boxing event**

Kumar Maheshwari won gold medal in the 55 kg weightlifting event with a 100 Kg snatch, 130 Kg Clean & Jerk with the total weight of 230 Kgs defeating Uday Mahajan from Maharashtra.

Similarly Komal Maheshwari also won bronze medal with total lift of 225 Kgs in the event under the University Games. Both the players

are under training of Ajaydeep Sarang and Rustam Sarang.

Similarly, Pt RSU player Rajbala has secured place in the semi-final defeating Sakshi from MTNS University of Maharashtra in the 60-63 Kg category. Weightlifting Association General Secretary Rajesh Janghel, Director Physical Education of Pt RSU Dr Vipin Chandra Sharma, USM Dr Debashish Hajra and Tennis Coach Rupendra Chouhan have congratulated the players on the success.

### Muskan Nayak selected in International Drawing Exhibition

**Raipur, Apr 26:** Muskan Nayak from Adarsh Vidyalaya Devendra Nagar has been selected in International Drawing Exhibition conducted by the institution RICE. Muskan attained 10th position in the competition for the age group 16 to 18 years. The theme of the drawing exhibition was 'MY



COSMO'. The selection was done through an online drawing competition at Kolkata and the Exhibition

is going to take place in Russia too. Muskan's selection is a matter of pride and glory for the state of Chhattisgarh. The Principal Suman Shanbagh, the president of the group of schools, Shashi Kumar of Raipur Karla Samajam, teachers and friends congratulate Muskan for her glittering achievement.

## श्री खाटू श्याम ज्योतिष

**पं. रविकांत शर्मा**  
**पं. एस.के. शास्त्री**  
**जन्मकुण्डली विशेषज्ञ**

**हर मुश्किल से मुश्किल समस्या का समाधान**  
**"ज्योतिष मेरा काम नहीं, मेरी साधना है"**  
**"जब कहीं ना हो काम, तो हमसे ले समाधान"**

श्री खाटू श्याम की असीम कृपा से आपकी हस्त रेखा, चेहरा फोटो देखकर भविष्य बताते हैं। रोग पीड़ा, कलह, कष्ट, संतान योग, विवाह व्यापार उन्नति, नौकरी, प्रमोशन, मकान, दुकान, फैंक्ट्री, विदेश यात्रा, बच्चों का कैरियर, मानसिक, शारीरिक एवं आर्थिक परेशानी, कालसर्प दोष जीवन, पति-पत्नि, शादी, लड़का, लड़की के टूटे रिश्ते पर मार्गदर्शन, स्त्री-पुरुष सभी का समाधान भक्ति, पुजा पाठ द्वारा मार्गदर्शन करते हैं। एक बार अवश्य मिलें।

**व्यापार बढ़ोतरी, किया कराया, शादी के लिए माता पिता को मनाना, मोहनी स्पेशलिस्ट**

**बुकिंग के लिए संपर्क करें:-**

**बुकिंग समय -**  
**सुबह 9.00 बजे से सुबह 10.00 बजे तक**  
**मिलने का समय :**  
**सुबह 10.00 बजे से शाम 6.00 बजे तक**

**नोट: मिलने के लिए अपॉइंटमेंट लेना आवश्यक है**

**पोलसायपारा चौक, गुप्ता प्रेस के नीचे, स्टेशन रोड, दुर्ग (छ.ग.)**  
**Mobile : 9755964567, 8269882138**

## Yoga plays an important role in keeping mind and body healthy: CM

**CM announces to provide building in village Fundahar for regular practice of yoga**

**CM inaugurates State Level Yogasana Competition cum Yoga Conference**



mark the occasion of fifth foundation day of Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission.

Chief Minister Baghel said that the literal meaning of Yoga is 'to join' or 'to unite'. It helps one to connect with the inner self. Yoga helps an individual to become more mentally and physically disciplined and discipline makes us a responsible citizens. On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced to provide a

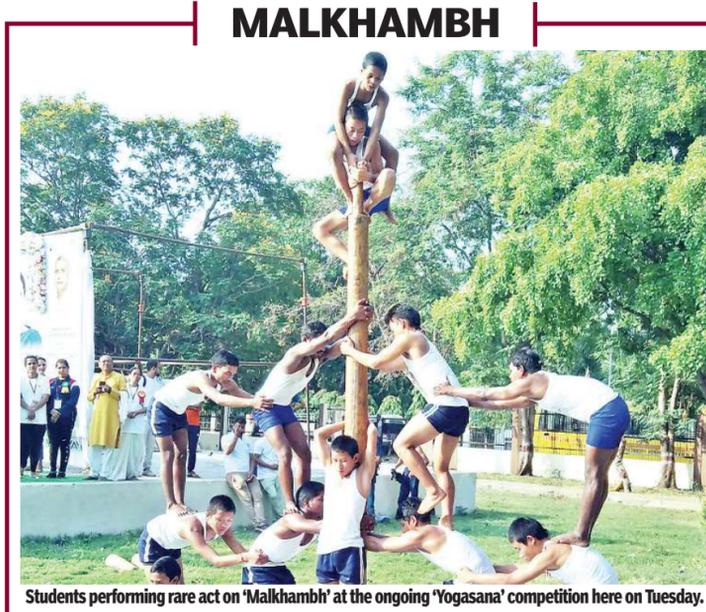
building in village Fundahar to the residents of the state capital for regular yoga practice. Mr. Baghel appreciated the yoga poses performed by the participants of the Yogasana competition and wished them a bright future.

The Chief Minister further said that Yoga is individual and not collective. The nature of each person's body is different. Therefore, one should practice 'asanas' suitable

for their body under the guidance of a qualified yoga instructor. He said that asanas-pranayama should be practiced following the principles of Ashtanga Yoga. It has a positive effect on the nerves, muscles and bones. It helps to boost one's confidence and self-esteem. Chhattisgarh State Yoga Commission Chairman Gyanesh Sharma said that more than one thousand participants are participating in

the three-day Yogasana competition organized to mark the occasion of the fifth foundation day of the Commission. On Tuesday, April 26, a programme of Surya Namaskar and special yoga practice by 1000 yoga practitioners has been organized in the campus of Pt. Ravi Shankar University.

Mahant Dr. Ramsunder Das, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Cow Service Commission, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Mr. Kuldeep Juneja, Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Vikas Upadhyay, MLA Mr. Brijmohan Agrawal, Member of Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission Mr. Ravinder Singh, Rajesh Nara, Satnam Panag along with office bearers of various yoga institutions, instructors and yoga practitioners were also present on the occasion.



Students performing rare act on 'Malkhambh' at the ongoing 'Yogasana' competition here on Tuesday.

## Ch'garh police's anti-Naxal operation yielding positive results

**57 Naxalites surrendered in March, 37 arrested**

**Raipur, Apr 26:** The joint action of Chhattisgarh Police and paramilitary forces that draws Naxalites to join the mainstream of society is yielding positive results with Naxal-activities confining into just few pockets in Chhattisgarh. According to information received from DIG (Naxal Operations), as many as 57 Naxalites have surren-

dered in the month of March, making the anti-Naxal operation of police successful. Meanwhile, a total of 37 Naxalites have also been arrested and 04 Naxalites have been killed in different encounters with police in the month of March. Besides, during the anti-Naxal operation, the police has recovered 05 weapons and seized and defused 20 IEDs in Dantewada, Bijapur and Sukma districts.

According to the information received from DIG (Naxal Operation), contin-

uous patrolling and search work is being done by police and paramilitary forces in the dense forest and hilly regions of worst-Maoist affected Dantewada, Bijapur and Sukma districts. During this, encounters between the police and paramilitary forces are also being witnessed. Anti-Naxal campaign is being run by Chhattisgarh Police to curb Maoist activities in the state. The joint operation of police and paramilitary forces is going on which is reaping success.

## HNLU CIIT to act as its Research Hub

**Formally inaugurated virtually on occasion of World IP Day**

**Raipur, Apr 26:** Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU), Raipur celebrated the curtain raiser of World Intellectual Property Day falling on 26th April 2022 through a virtual programme on April 25. The programme also the formal inaugural of the HNLU Centre for Intellectual Property, Innovation and Technology (CIIT) - an HNLU Research hub on April 25 by Dr. Unnat P Pandit, Controller General of Patents, Design and Trademark as the Chief Guest for the event. The virtual inauguration was followed by an interaction titled "IN CONVERSATION" which was hosted under the platform "EX ARCA" (meaning out of the box) series of HNLU.

The HNLU Center for Intellectual Property, Innovation & Technology (CIIT), at HNLU aims to play a pivotal role for capacity building of stakeholders in field of law, management, technology and science and to catalyse the



efforts for innovation and monetization to benefit the stakeholders.

Prof. Garima Panwar, a lead IP faculty at HNLU explained the structure and goals of the to develop research, teaching and advocacy in Intellectual Property Rights especially that of the geographical strengths of manufacturing, mining and traditional knowledge for appropriate outcome of policy and practice of IPR. The center will be collaborating and contributing with state and central Governments for appropriate IP dissemination and propagation.

Speaking about the programme Prof. Vivekanand and remarked that "The inaugural of this centre marks the beginning of a vibrant research clusters of the HNLU Research

HUB and presence of the Patent Controller is a great start for roll out of the research centre"

During his opening remarks, Prof. Dr. Unnat P Pandit observed that "Establishment of this centre is a crucial for the trajectory India is taking in the field of innovation and IPR and the research output of this centre will play an important role for policy makers"

The Welcome Address for the program was delivered by Prof. Dr. Uday Shankar, Registrar, HNLU and the Vote of Thanks was delivered by Prof. Dr. Vishnu K, Dean PG Studies and Research, HNLU. The programme was anchored by Prof Anita Singh and Prof. Ankit Awasti on behalf of digital@hnlul team.

## Birth anniv of Mahatma Hansraj commemorated



**At DAV Public School, Bachel**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bachel, Apr 26:** The birth anniversary of Mahatma Hansraj was commemorated at DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL, BACHELI. Tributes were paid to the great soul by the Principal Dr. Chetna Sharma and the staff members.

Mr. V. K. Dewangan had given a brief de-

scription about Mahatma Hansraj's life and his contribution towards the upliftment of every section in the society leaving behind the caste discrimination. Mrs. Omisha Sahu along with the Principal and other teachers beautifully sung the bhajans. The Principal applauded the sincere efforts of her team and also encouraged everyone to follow the footsteps of the great soul - Mahatma Hansraj.

## Implement welfare schemes of the Health awareness camp held



**Central Chronicle News**

**Jagdalpur, Apr 26:** District Collector Rajat Bansal warned of strict action against officials, found guilty of not implementing welfare schemes of the government and depriving the public of basic

facilities. The collector was presiding review here at the Collectorate premises. The Collector said that the officers should visit villages regularly and monitor the operation of drinking water, electricity, food grains, health centers, schools and

Anganwadi centers and provide basic facilities and quality services to the people. He directed all the sub-divisional magistrates to ensure smooth implementation of public welfare schemes of the government in their respective areas.

Emphasizing on the quality of services provided through Revenue and Panchayat and Rural Development Department, the Collector emphasized on the presence of Patwari and Panchayat Secretary in the headquarters. He said that immediate stern action should be ensured against the officers who

are absent in the headquarters.

The Collector also directed to conduct maximum employment-oriented activities in all the Gauthans as well as ensure the fulfillment of all the basic necessities. He warned of strict action against the Sarpanch, Secretary and Rural Agriculture Extension Officer as well as the officials of the departments concerned if the arrangements for the Gauthans were not found correct. The Collector also gave approval for construction of buildings for 112 fair price shops soon in the district.

**Under Azadi-Ka-Amrit-Mahotsav celebrations**

**Koriya, Apr 26:** A Health awareness fair cum camp organized by the health department was launched in the district to commemorate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. On the first day of the health fair, 1 thousand 65 people took advantage of the health facilities, in which 585 people got tested in cultural building of development block Manendragarh and 480 in urban primary health center of Nagar Palika Parishad Shivpur Charcha. In the fair, people were



given general medicine, maternal health, child health, vaccination, family planning consultation, cataract screening, eye,

nose, ear and throat related examination, dental examination, skin examination, nutrition consultation, AIDS control

Counseling, Leprosy Control, T.B. Control and others were done.

District Collector while visiting the camp at Urban Health Center of Shivpur Charcha interacted with patients and provided aid to 6-month-old girl Abida, who arrived at the health fair with ear problem and patients Meena Singh and Devendra Naidu with spectacles and Purushottam with Arushman card. Municipal Council Shivpur Charcha President Lalmuni Yadav, District Panchayat CEO Kunal Dudawat along with District Level Officer and team of Health Department were present.

## Collector makes surprise inspection of Tehsil

**Koriya, Apr 26:** District Collector Kuldeep Sharma inspected Tehsil and Janpad Panchayat office along with District Panchayat CEO Kunal Dudawat during his visit to development block Baikunthpur hre. After discussing with the officers and employees in the Tehsil office, he directed to resolve the pending cases of revenue matters, transfer, distribution, RBC 6-4, caste income, and residence certificate cases at the earliest.

After meeting the applicants who had brought their applications to the Tehsil office, Collector Shri Sharma inquired about their problems and directed to solve the problem of one Manprasad of

village Chervapara, who had brought the application for compensation amount, at the earliest.

During the inspection, Sharma instructed the officials to make arrangements for pots for drinking water arrangement near the entrance gate in the Tehsil for the convenience of the general public. During the inspection of District Panchayat office, Collector Shri Sharma checked the records in various branches in the office. He inquired about the resolution of cases like ration card, pension and online entry in the portal in the camps set up in the past and instructed to make proper arrangements in the office.

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bilaspur, Apr 26:** Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University) Bilaspur in today's scenario of changing technologies and creation of new opportunities, students pursuing a degree in engineering are quite unsure about which field to make a career in. Keeping this situation in mind, the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, School of Studies in Engineering in Technology, Guru Ghasidas



Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University) Bilaspur has launched a first of its kind "ECE Lecture Series" aimed at helping students to choose their best possible career path, clearing their doubts and giving them insights about the present day and, at the same time,

to guide them through the technologies being used in the industry and the alumni of the department. Speaker of this session, Prashasti Pankaj, Student Coordinator and final year student of ECE department, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dr. Soma Das, HOD ECE

and Convener of the event addressed the meeting thereafter and explained the purpose of the meeting. Bhavna Shukla, Assistant Professor E.C.E., and the coordinator of this series took the responsibility of addressing the speakers.

Vikas Swarnkar, Scientist/Engineer- SF, Deputy Head, System Reliability, SDSC SHAR, ISRO Sriharikota, A.P. (Alumnus 2004) and Abhishek Khandelwal, Sr. Tech Member Technical Staff - I, 5G Network, R&D Team Mavenir Systems, Ex - Sasken, Nokia 4G/5G Domain, an

entrepreneur in E-Commerce Domain (Alumnus 2015) gave their brief introductions.

Our first speaker Vikas Swarnkar shared his experiences with everyone and informed the students about the scope of ECE in India and the future opportunities. He shared his experience on how he joined a reputed organization like ISRO and relied on the fact that hard work leads to success. He then went on to share the strategies behind cracking competitive exams. Our second speaker of the day, Mr. Abhishek Khandelwal re-

flected on his thoughts on having the right mindset and the upcoming and current technologies used in the industry and the right path to make a career in the core area of ECE. More than 50 students participated in the meeting and got information about opportunities in ECE. A feedback form was started for each and every student to know about the quality of the program conducted and the future topics on which the webinar should be conducted. The program ended with vote of thanks by Smt. Pragati Patharia, Assistant Professor, ECE.

# Water security is the foundation of our bright future: Arun Sao



Takhatpur, Apr 26:

Due to the scorching heat in the city, there was a demand to drill bore in seven places of the city, which was fulfilled in the public interest due to the initiative of MP Arun Sao. Water is life, it is also necessary for us to save water and through this platform we have to take a pledge that water should

not be wasted because if there is water then there is tomorrow, said MP Arun Sao. The parliamentarian was speaking at the bore opening Bhoomi Pujan program in Takhatpur Nagar. Former President of Women's Commission Smt. Harshita Pandey said that politics of discrimination is being done in Takhatpur Municipality,

and the wards of the BJP councilors were neglected, but while being committed to the development of the city, the BJP is taking full care of the facilities of the people. The program was presided over by Smt. Harshita Pandey, former President of the Women's Commission. The special guests were Jeevan Lal Pandey, Tretanath

Pandey, Narayan Singh Thakur, Mamta Dhananjay Kshatriya, America Krishna Kumar Sahu, Pradeep Kaushik, Banshi Pade, former vice-president of the municipality. The program was mainly attended by Parshad Shiv Devangan, Nain Lal Sahu, Komal Singh Thakur, Pratibha Kashi Devangan, Pushpa Narendra Ratre,

Amrika Krishna Kumar Sahu, Malti Yadav, Rama Kashyap, Lata Kashyap, Shyama Ramanandi, Banshi Pade, Dilip Tolani, Anil Singh Thakur, Chandrakant Dwivedi, Luv Kumar Pandey, Guljit Khurana, Narmada Dhuri, Dhananjay Singh, Pillu Ram Sahu, Rajesh Soni, Gyan Singh Thakur, Monu Semar, Dakesh Kashyap, Narendra Ratre Kashi Devangan, Tilak Devangan, Amit Yadav, Vikram Singh Thakur, Islam Ansari, Omkar Soni, Basant Soni, Rajkumar Pandey, Surendra Soni, Rakesh Tiwari, Surya Kashyap and others were present in large numbers. The program was conducted by General Secretary Nain Lal Sahu and Aabhar Mandal Vice President Krishna Kumar Sahu.

# Proper implementation of central schemes not done: Bharti

Dongargarh, Apr 26:

## Many schemes by state govt in public interest: Sinha

Meanwhile Block Congress Committee Rural President Suresh Sinha categorically rejected the allegation made by former MLA Shri Bharti and said that the state government is working towards progressive development of farmers through Gaudhan Nyay Yojana including Narva Garwa Bari. This has strengthened the rural economy, at the same time, along with employment; the business of traders is also flourishing. Keeping all the sections in mind, many schemes are being implemented by the state government, he said.

public welfare schemes run by the Centre, the amount is not available for about 7000 approved new houses in the district due to the negligence of the state government in giving the amount of its contribution. The beneficiaries of the Prime Minister's house have become homeless. The debt of traders on them is increasing, he alleged. Similarly, widow pension, unemployment

allowance, farmers not getting the amount as announced, etc. and due to the disobedience of the state government, there is huge resentment among the public and if the MLAs want to solve the public problem with an open mind, then they should take proper initiative in the direction of implementation of all the welfare schemes of the Centre in public interest, he said.

Expressing happiness over local MLA Bhuneshwar Baghel roaming the streets of the village to solve the public problem, former MLA Ramji Bharti has said that the officers of the administration also should do the same, towards the implementation of all the schemes run by the Centre. It is being seen that during the tenure of the Congress government in the state, the officials of the concerned department are not paying attention to the implementation of various welfare schemes of the Centre, the former MLA accused. Narva Garwa Gurwa Bari, the only scheme being run by the state government, on the other hand, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, which is included in the

# Development work worth crores announced



Dhamdha, Apr 26:

After 18 years, major developmental works were inaugurated in the region by the Chief Minister and a huge crowd of more than fifteen thousand people took part in the Bhoomi Pujan. The Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel dedicated to the public, fruit wholesale vegetable market at a cost of 11 crores, new buildings of Agriculture Department including Government Hospital constructed at a cost of 1.50 crores, Irrigation Department, Public Works Department works worth crores of Nagar Panchayat, and also dedicated 27 nos. of tractors to farmers, tricycles to handicapped, motorcycles to fishermen with nets.



Dhamdha area, and after giving the welcome address, the President of the Nagar Panchayat, Mrs. Sunita Gupta kept her point while narrating the struggles of her previous tenure and said that how the previous government had run a bulldozer on the vegetable market. The traders were forced to wander from door to door; today everyone's dreams have come true with the new vegetable market. The Chief Minister also gave an immediate approval of Rs. 5 crores for the development of the city, and on the demand of Minister

Choubey, the 30 bed hospital of Dhamdha was increased to 50 beds, and coaching centre and new auditorium in Dhamdha College was also announced. The programme

was addressed by Mandi President Ashwani Sahu, the program was conducted by District Congress General Secretary Rajiv Gupta, and present were former MLA Pradeep Choubey, Nagar Panchayat President Sunita Gupta, District President Saraswati Ratre, Shiv Kumar Verma, Rajeev Gupta, Jeevan Verma, Shamshir Qureshi, Jalam Singh, Dehuti Sahu Patel, Madhusudan Rana, Ashok Kasar, Dukhva Patel, Himmat Dhimar, Arun Sahu, Rajat Nayak, Dakendra Sahu, Jeevan Nirmalkar, Rameshwar Sahu and thousands of people.

# Tribals share pain in midst of claims of Maoists-Police

Konta / Sukma, Apr 26:



After the statement issued by the Maoists' Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee regarding the drone attack and its refutation by the police, the people's protest in the border villages of Sukma-Bijapur on the lines of Silger seems to be taking the form of a militant movement. On Sunday, a crowd of more than ten thousand villagers had gathered for demonstration in Bodkel village. Along with the villagers, children and elders were also involved in this demonstration in large numbers.

attacks. The protesters expressed concern about the destruction of the forest and said that if such bombing continues from the sky in the coming days, the forest will not survive, the existence of the tribals will be in danger, their cattle will be killed, there is no way for them except to escape to save their lives. According to the villagers, a similar incident had happened last year and this is the second incident this month, after which the people of the village and the village are scared. In the season of Mahua, they have

to move to the forest for forest produce. Now they are afraid to go to the forest. Their existence rests on the forests, but if they stop going to the forest due to the fear of the sky, how will they survive. Any forest-village can be destroyed in the bombing, if this happens, not only the existence of the tribals will end, but the primitive culture will also become extinct, villagers claimed. The villagers said that in the name of eradicating Naxalites, they have been tortured before, now their trouble has increased even

more due to the bombs being dropped targeting the Naxalites from the sky. However, amidst the claims of the Naxalites and the police, the demand of the villagers is that if they want to know the reality, then the ministers and MLAs of the government should reach among them. They should come here and confirm the claims themselves, if they become aware of the truth, then protective steps should be taken to maintain the supremacy of the tribals, otherwise their movement will take a more massive form.

## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division), 797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur 482001 (M.P.)

Case No.: RC/133/2017 in O.A. No. 120/2016 BANK OF BARODA Vs M/s. AGRAWAL MOTORS

E-Auction No. 75/2022

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website: <https://www.bankeauctions.com> for recovery of a sum of Rs. 2,01,10,114.84 (Rupees Two Crores One Lakh Ten Thousand One Hundred Fourteen and Eighty Four Paise only) payable by you/him in respect of Recovery Certificate in O.A. No. 120/2016 issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur with interest at 12.00% p.a. with simple interest from 15-02-2016 and costs payable as per recovery certificate till realization.

Date and Time of E-auction : 02-06-2022 Between 12.00 Hours and 13.00 hours

SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPERTIES PUT FOR SALE

Land, Building & Shed on Kharsa No. 1710/33, 1724/2, Korba to Katghora Road, Ward No. 15, Chhurikala, Tehsil- Katghora, District- Korba (C.G.), Area of Land admeasuring 108900 Sq.Ft., Property in the name of Shri Ashok R. Agrawal and Smt. Sushila Ashok Agrawal. Upset Price: Rs. 1,40,52,000.00 (Rupees One Crore Forty Lakh Fifty Two Thousand only)

Conditions of Sale:

- 1. Intending bidders must hold a valid digital signature certificate. For details contact M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: <https://www.bankeauctions.com>; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Danish Khan on Mob. No. 9826804343, 9111444797; E-mail id: mpcg@ctindia.com or 8319822113, E-mail ID: support@bankeauctions.com.
2. Intending bidders are advised to go through website: <https://www.bankeauctions.com> for auction bid form and details, terms and conditions of sale before submitting their bids.
3. Bids should be submitted only online in the prescribed form along with a copy of identity document as an attachment to the bid form (refer detailed terms and conditions). Bidder should satisfy them self with regard to correctness, measurement, encumbrances etc by their own sources (Govt. Office) also later on DRT will not be responsible for this.
4. 10% of the upset price i.e. EMD/Bid price Rs. 14,05,200.00 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Five Thousand Two Hundred only) must be remitted towards EMD through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the credit of Account no. 0717020000431 in the name of Recovery Officer, E-auction account, DRT Jabalpur with Bank of Baroda, Napier Town Branch, Jabalpur (IFSC Code: BARBONAPIER) and the remittance must be clearly mentioned in the bid form.
5. Bids should be submitted on or before 17.00 Hours on 30-05-2022 online.
6. A copy of the bid form along with its enclosure submitted online should be sent to Recovery Officer, DRT, Jabalpur, 797-II Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur so as to reach at the earliest.
7. Online bidding will commence from the highest bid quoted among the bids and the minimum increase for each bid will be Rs. 1,00,000.00 (Rupees One Lakh only) In case of bid received before closure of Auction window, there shall be an automatic extension of 5 minutes in Auction time by the system.
8. The refund of EMD of the unsuccessful bidders will be remitted to the same account from which the payment has been made and no inquiry in this regard will be entertained. After deposit of EMD by intending bidder they cannot withdraw the EMD amount until they are declared as "Unsuccessful bidder" otherwise the amount will be forfeited.
9. In the case of immovable property listed in the schedule below, the successful bidder shall remit 25% of the bid amount (less EMD) on the next day on declaration, if the sale is knocked down in his/her favour, through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the Account no. 0717020000431 mentioned in SL. no. 4 and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold and amount deposited as EMD will be forfeited.
10. The successful bidder shall remit balance 75% of the sale amount along with poundage of 1% of sale amount plus Rs.10/- for each property separately within 15 days of auction, to the Account no. 0717020000431 mentioned at SL. no 4 through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day is a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office working day after 15th day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after the issue of a fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit will be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.
11. Property will be sold "As is Where is and No Complaint basis".
12. The properties can be inspected on 21-05-2022 Between 12.00 hours and 16.00 hours.
13. Properties will not be sold below the upset price.
14. Recovery Officer have the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason.
15. Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with the Mr. Manish Das, Chief Manager, Mobile No. 9265609282 and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc.
16. Details regarding e-Auction shall be obtained from M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: <https://www.bankeauctions.com>; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Danish Khan on Mob. No. 9826804343, 9111444797; E-mail id: mpcg@ctindia.com or 8319822113, E-mail ID: support@bankeauctions.com.
17. Further property details if any required shall be obtained from Mr. Manish Das, Chief Manager, Mobile No. 9265609282.
18. The bidders may participate in the e-auction by quoting / bidding from their own offices / places of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by each bidder himself. DRT/ Bank / Service Provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, Power failure etc.

Place : Jabalpur Date : 22.04.2022 (Satish Solanki) RECOVERY OFFICER

# One -day industrial visit of Industry- IIC

Bilaspur, Apr 26: A one-day industrial visit was organized jointly by the Department of Industrial and Production Engineering and Industry-Institute Interaction Cell (IIC) of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, on April 7. Under this, the students of B.Tech.6th Semester of I.P.E. Department were taken to Central Institute of Petrochemical Engineering and Technology (CIPET) located at Bhanpuri (Raipur) Industrial Area. I P Tindh was visited in Raipur. The Director and Head of CIPET, J.P.T.Raipur, B.P.Patro, gladly granted permission for this visit. In this visit, a total of 40 students and three assistant professors, Disha Devangana, Anurag Singh and Somnath Singraul participated for guidance. Led by Vishal Verma, Vice-Principal, CIPET IPT, the students visited the four major departments of CIPET (Cad,Cam, Tool Room, Production and Testing) and understood the working process there. All the students took part in this tour with great pleasure

and saw many instruments related to their department being used in direct form. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal expressed happiness on this visit and encouraged similar visits in future.

## NAME CHANGE

It's to inform to the general public I Mamta D/O Suresh Kumar Ladhani Have changed my old name Mamta Ladhani to Kanishka Ahuja. So in future I should be Recognized by my new name Kanishka D/O Suresh Kumar Ladhani in all government and other documents

Kanishka Ahuja W/o Sanjay Ahuja New Sarkanda Main Road, Opp SBI Bilaspur (C.G.)495001

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Smt Mangla Gouri soni Wife of Shri Laxmi Prasad Soni resident of 889/3/B Balco Nagar Korba Teh. Korba (C.G.) In 10 th Marksheet of my son Pankaj kumar soni my name is written as MANGALA GOURI SONI is incorrect In my adhar card my name is written as MANGLA GOURI SONI is Correct.

Regards Smt. MANGLA GOURI SONI 889/3/B Balco Nagar, Korba (C.G.)

## CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I TULARAM SON OF SADHURAM CHANDRAKAR RESIDENT OF RAMAYAN CHOWK, CHANTIDIH, BILASPUR C.G. 495001 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME TULA RAM S/O SADHU RAM CHANDRAKAR, SO IN THE FURTHER, I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY NEW NAME TULARAM CHANDRAKAR S/O SADHU RAM CHANDRAKAR IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

TULARAM CHANDRAKAR RAMAYAN CHOWK, CHANTIDIH, BILASPUR DISTRICT BILASPUR C.G. 495001

## कार्यालय नगर पंचायत, भटगाँव जिला- सुरजपुर (छ.ग.)

Table with 4 columns: क्र., कार्य का नाम, लागत राशि (लाख में), निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय. Includes details for works like road construction and electricity supply.

## कार्यालय नगर पंचायत, भटगाँव जिला- सुरजपुर (छ.ग.)

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## BRIEF

### Parades

**Aurangabad:** A businessman in Maharashtra's Parli Vajjanath tied his electric scooter to a donkey with a rope and paraded it around the town as a mark of protest against its manufacture for not fixing the fault in the two-wheeler after it stopped working just 15 days post delivery. Feeling upset after poor response from the company to rectify the problem in the vehicle, the businessman, Sachin Gitte, tied faulty e-scooter to a donkey and paraded it across town in Beed district.

### Arrest

**Alappuzha:** Kerala Police recorded the arrest of two RSS workers, who were apprehended with weapons from Mannachery near here the previous day. Police said they have recorded the arrest of Sumesh alias Bittu and Sreenath, two RSS workers, and recovered a machete and registered a case under the Arms Act. The local SDPI councillor and his friend have given a complaint that they were attacked by these RSS workers. A case has been registered based on complaint.

### Manhandled

**New Delhi:** Some policemen were manhandled allegedly by advocates outside the Karkardooma Court complex during a protest against the cops, police said. The incident took place when some advocates started protesting and manhandling police personnel outside the court complex, police said. According to the police, the protesting lawyers alleged that, an advocate named Neeraj was beaten by Sub Inspector Sachin Dangi of Nand Nagri police station.

### Seized

**Fatehpur:** Police along with the officials of the Narcotics department seized dry 'ganja' worth Rs 8 crore from a truck travelling from Odisha to Rajasthan, officials said. The seizure was made in Bakewar police station area of the district. Acting on a tip-off, police intercepted the truck on the Chaudhagra-Jahanabad road, and recovered 24 quintal of dry 'ganja', whose cost is around Rs 8 crore in the international market, Bakewar Station House Officer (SHO) Neeraj Yadav said.

### Held

**Gurugram:** The Gurugram Police nabbed a resident a man who allegedly hit a home guard with his car in an inebriated state, officials said. SUV driver Anil, a resident of Bajad village in Mahendragarh district, was arrested from the Sector-38. He was produced before a city court which sent him to judicial custody while the vehicle has also been recovered, police said. The home guard is being treated in a hospital. A FIR has been registered at Sadar police station.

# 'BJP desperate due to inability to form Govt in Maharashtra'

Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTI):

A day after BJP leader Devendra Fadnis slammed the Maharashtra government in the wake of a political row over the recitation of Hanuman Chalisa, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Tuesday claimed the BJP's desperation stems from its inability to come back to power in the state. Talking to reporters here, Raut further said the BJP stands no chance of coming back to power in the state in the next 25 years. The Shiv Sena, which snapped ties with the BJP after the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly polls, currently shares power with



Sanjay Raut

the NCP and Congress in the state.

Raut also claimed that former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya, who alleged that he was attacked by Shiv Sainiks last

week, had "applied tomato sauce to pretend he was bleeding".

His remarks came after a BJP delegation comprising former MP Somaiya and party MLAs from Mumbai met Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai in New Delhi, and urged him to form a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the alleged assault on Somaiya and review his security arrangements.

Fadnis had claimed that the Mumbai police were not taking seriously the "attack" on Somaiya over the weekend allegedly by Shiv Sainiks seriously and written a letter to

Union home secretary, claiming the city police were acting like "servants" of the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government in the state.

Raut also slammed Fadnis for his statement that if reciting Hanuman Chalisa attracts sedition, then he along with his party-men will do it.

The city police on Saturday arrested independent MP Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana and booked them on charge of sedition, after they gave a call to recite Hanuman Chalisa outside CM Thackeray's private residence 'Matoshree' in suburban Bandra.

## Delhi, Punjab Govts sign knowledge sharing agreement

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

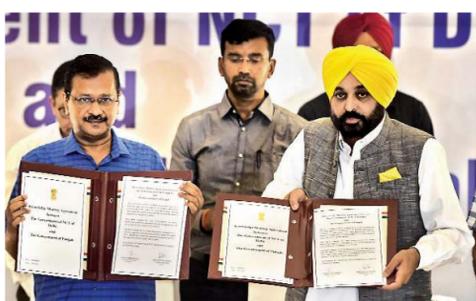
An agreement for knowledge sharing was signed on Tuesday between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Singh Mann, who said 117 schools and mohalla clinics will be developed in his state.

Mann said education, health and power were a priority of his government and Punjab can learn from Delhi where a lot of work has been done in these fields.

Delhi can also learn from Punjab about agriculture, he said.

Kejriwal said India will progress if every state starts learning from the good work done by others.

"It will be wrong to say



For better health, education infrastructure

that only we have done good work. There were several islands of excellence across the country but there were divisions of parties and states, and nothing was learnt from that," he said in a press conference held jointly with Mann.

About opposition allegations that the AAP govern-

ment in Punjab was being ruled from Delhi, Kejriwal said, "Manish Sisodia visited Europe and Finland to learn about their education system. It will be stupid if someone says the Delhi government is being run by Finland."

"Recently, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin visited Delhi.

# Railways must pay compensation if person falls off crowded train: HC

Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court has observed that local trains are the lifeline of Mumbai and if a person falls and suffers injuries while trying to board an overcrowded train, it will fall within the ambit of an "untoward incident" and compensation will have to be paid by the Railways.

A single bench of Justice Bharati Dangre directed the Western Railways to pay Rs 3 lakh to a 75-year-old man who suffered injuries to his leg after falling off an overcrowded local train.

A copy of the order dated April 12 was made available on Tuesday. The Western Railways argued that the case did not fall under the provisions of section 124(A) of the Railways Act, which states that compensation has to



Bombay High Court

be paid in cases of untoward incidents. It claimed that the petitioner, Nitin Hundiwala, had tried to board a moving train.

Justice Dangre, however, refused to accept the Railways' argument and noted that the present case clearly fell within the situation covered by "untoward incident" as per section 124(A) of the Act.

If in daily chores, a passenger attempts to gain

entry into an overcrowded train and is pushed by other passengers, resulting in his or her fall, then there is no reason why such an incident cannot fall within the ambit of an untoward incident, the order said. Local trains in Mumbai are often called the 'life line of the city', with a huge number of the city's inhabitants relying on them to get to work and other destinations at

some point of time, the court said. Even, it is not unknown, for the residents of Mumbai who commute through Railways, to undertake risk at some point of time, in order to reach their destination on time. This city, which is affordable and convenient, this calculated risk cannot surely amount to a criminal act, Justice Dangre said. The order further stated that the purpose of section 124(A) of the Railways Act was to provide speedy remedy to an injured passenger or to the dependents of a deceased passenger involved in an untoward incident.

This provision of the Act cannot be stretched to deny compensation to a person who may act callously or imprudently at times, Justice Dangre said.

# Jharkhand forest officer's papers accepted for WFC

Ranchi, Apr 26 (PTI):

Research papers of a Jharkhand forest officer have been accepted for presentation at the World Forestry Congress, which is held every six years. The event will take place in Seoul from May 2 to May 6.

Sanjeev Kumar, additional principal chief conservator of forests, CAMPA, Jharkhand, will present the two papers at the congress.

The first paper deals with the use of traditional knowledge in sustainable forest management and provisioning of ecosystems in Jharkhand while the second one discusses non-timber forest produce



IFS Sanjeev Kumar

(NTFP) as a source of livelihood and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Kumar told PTI, that villagers and tribals living in and around the forests have acquired traditional knowledge over time. It is also transferred from one generation to the next

through folk art, folk tales, and folk music.

This traditional knowledge, he said, is all about the enhancement and sustainable use of forests.

A study was carried out in this regard to know the trajectories of sustainable forest management (SFM) development and the role of the traditional knowledge for SFM in Jharkhand. The study reflects that this traditional knowledge is associated with practices like conservation through planting groves, celebrating festivals based on nature, taboos, social beliefs and various other practices which have been helpful in SFM.

# 121 CCTVs to be installed in riot-hit Khargone

Buses allowed to operate during curfew relaxation

Khargone, Apr 26 (PTI):

The Khargone district administration in Madhya Pradesh has started the work of installing 121 CCTV cameras at different locations, including those where stone-pelting was reported during the Ram Navami celebration earlier this month, an official said on Tuesday.

Local administration relaxed the curfew in the violence-hit town for nine hours - from 8 am to 5 pm - for the fourth day in a row on Tuesday and allowed plying of passenger buses during that period.

Communal clashes had erupted in Khargone on



Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao lays the foundation stone for the construction of Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) Super Specialty Hospital, in Elbilnagar.

# 'People forced to flee homes need to be treated with dignity'

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTI):

People who are forced to flee from their homes or are displaced need to be treated with dignity, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner Gillian Triggs said, lauding India's efforts in opening its borders to refugees.

Triggs, who is on a four-day visit to India, was speaking at the inauguration of the Charkha exhibition at the National Gandhi Museum.

She praised India's efforts to the protection of Tibetans and the Sri Lankan Tamils.

"One of the first reasons that I wanted to come to India was the fact that India has a very



UN Assistant Secretary General Gillian Triggs with Director of NGM A Annamalai visits the renovated Charkha Gallery during its inauguration, at the National Gandhi Museum, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

long history of support for refugees. India opened its borders and it protected many people over many centuries," Triggs said. Linking Mahatma Gandhi's use of

the spinning wheel (charkha) to self-reliance, Triggs said people who are forced to flee from their homes, who are displaced to be treated with dignity and a part of that

search for dignity is self-reliance. "I understand that this was very much behind Mahatma Gandhi's thinking that to be able to spin this, the concept to do this yourself, was a way of empowering them (people) and of showing that they could be independent and self-reliant," she said. "We both value India's contribution to protection for people in need. But we also value the contribution that they make as refugees to the communities... there are many examples of the support that India has given more recently to the people of Afghanistan and people fleeing from Myanmar," she added.

# Telangana CM likely to unveil national agenda

Hyderabad, Apr 26 (PTI):

The ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti's 21st Foundation Day here on Wednesday is likely to spell out the party's roadmap ahead of next year's Assembly polls and its supreme and Chief Minister K Chandrasekar Rao's national role amidst his efforts to cobble up an anti-BJP front to take on the saffron party juggernaut in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Rao is slated to address the workers at the meeting.

The event is also expected to mark the sounding of the poll bugle for the 2023 state assembly polls, with the ruling party setting its eyes for a third straight term since coming to power in 2014, when the state came into existence.

Rao will address party workers and members on the 21st foundation day and is likely to unveil its

national agenda. TRS, established on April 27, 2001 to seek the formation of an independent Telangana state, achieved its objective on June 2, 2014 with the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh.

During the day-long celebrations at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) in the city, the party will showcase its strength, the Telangana development model, and achievements of the TRS government in the last seven years.

As per the schedule, the TRS supreme will kick-start the celebrations by hoisting the party flag around 10.30 am, followed by delivery of a welcome address and introduction of 11 resolutions including one on national and state political situation.

The resolution will be debated and passed in the plenary meeting, which will also seek the people's

support for the continued growth of Telangana based on welfare programmes for all communities. The TRS government has launched more than three dozen-odd welfare schemes in the last seven years. Some popular welfare schemes are: Rythu Bandhu, Dalit Bandhu, Dharani, Kanti Velugu, Mission KCR Kit, Mission Kakatiya, Mission Bhagiratha, Haritha Haram, Kalyana Lakshmi-Shaadi Mubarak, Arogya Lakshmi, Asara pensions, Housing for the poor, sheep distribution, T-fiber and WE Hub Women Entrepreneurs Hub.

Telangana, which saw frequent power cuts, low agriculture production, lack of drinking water, and general sense of desperation among the people before the statehood is said to have made rapid strides in the last seven years.

The police had arrested Mohsin last Friday from Kasrawad police station area in the district.

Khargone SP Siddharth Choudhary is currently on leave as he is undergoing treatment after sustaining a bullet injury in his leg.

Since April 14, the local administration has been relaxing the curfew for some hours.

As per the district administration's order, the curfew relaxation will not be applicable to petrol pumps, religious places and for the sale of kerosene from Public Distribution System (PDS) shops.

During the curfew relaxation period, shops selling milk, vegetables, medicines, and barber's shops among others, are allowed to remain open, said the order.

April 10, during which shops and houses were damaged, vehicles torched and stones hurled. Subsequently, curfew was clamped in the city.

The police administration has given a list of locations where CCTVs need to be installed. Based on the list, work has been started to install 121 CCTV cameras at 36 locations, at a cost of Rs 64 lakh, Khargone Municipal Council's chief municipal officer Priyanka Patel said in a statement.

The areas where incidents of stone-pelting took place are also among these 36 locations, she said.

The gadgets to be installed at these places include 14 special cameras which can detect the registration number of a ve-

## BRIEF

### Extremist

**Ottawa:** The Canadian Armed Forces is not doing enough to detect and prevent white supremacists and other violent extremists from infiltrating the military, said a report released by Defense Minister Anita Anand. The report comes after a yearlong review by a panel of retired Armed Forces members and follows a number of incidents linking some military personnel with violent extremism and hate groups, including white supremacists and neo-Nazis with issues.

### Migrants

**Skopje:** Police in North Macedonia say a patrol discovered 18 migrants in the south of the country and arrested the driver after a brief chase. 18 migrants, 14 Syrians and four Pakistanis were discovered as they disembarked from a car with Bulgarian license plates not far from the border with Greece. The driver, a 27-year-old North Macedonian identified only by his initials, DA, attempted to flee but was arrested after a short chase. The migrants were transferred to a shelter.

### Drones

**Washington:** The Biden administration is calling on Congress to expand authority for federal and local governments to take action to counter the nefarious use in the US of drones, which are becoming a growing security concern and nuisance. The White House released an action plan that calls for expanding the number of agencies that can track and monitor drones flying in their airspace. It calls for establishing a list of US government authorized detection equipment.

### Urged

**Berlin:** The co-leader of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's party said that former Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, whose ties to the Russian energy industry have left him increasingly isolated at home, should leave the party. Saskia Esken, one of two co-leaders of Scholz's center-left Social Democrats, said in an interview with Deutschlandfunk radio that Gerhard Schroeder has been acting for many years now only as a businessman, and not as a former chancellor.

### Crash

**Eloy:** Authorities were investigating the crash of one of two planes that were part of a Red Bull stunt in which two pilots attempted to swap planes in mid-air over Arizona desert in US. The Federal Aviation Administration said the pilot of the plane that spun out of control and crashed ended up landing safely by parachute. The other pilot regained control of the second plane and landed safely. Local authorities say the plane crashed near Eloy, roughly 65 miles of Phoenix.

# On eastern front, Ukraine struggles to keep up morale

Barinkove, Apr 26 (AFP):

In the chaos of the battle for Barinkove on Ukraine's eastern front, the country's best-known singer, Sviatoslav Vakarchuk, appears in jeans and a bulletproof vest.

A soldier rushes up to the rockstar from the band Okean Elzy for a selfie. "We came to raise morale, to see the guys. Maybe I will sing something to them," the 46-year-old told AFP, guitar in hand.

"Their mood is great," he said. "I mean, they're not happy to be here of course, but they're very focused and determined and ready to win."

"That's why we're here, to (help them) understand that everything will be alright." But after two months under Russian fire on this unforgiving front line, it can be hard to sustain optimism. While soldiers have been trying to blunt the Kremlin's assault on the Donbas region, the offensive is now concentrated here.

"In terms of morale, the situation is complicated. It's far from rosy," Iryna



A Ukrainian serviceman looks at a Russian ballistic missile's booster stage that fell in a field in Bohodaroze, eastern Ukraine.

Rybakova, press officer of the 93rd brigade, told AFP. "Of course, we were prepared for this war, especially the professional army, but for those who've been recruited, it's more complicated," the soldier said. At the entrance to Barinkove, around five kilometres (three miles) from the Russian lines, six Ukrainian soldiers hold a checkpoint. They remain ready at any moment to dive into their trench, which they dig every day with a shovel. "Otherwise, we're dead," said Vasyl, 51, who serves on the front line with his son Denys, 22.

After a Ukrainian barrage, a dull roar signals the Russian retaliation.

A Russian shell, fired from a hill, thuds into a field. "They're just adjusting now — it will take a few minutes, then (the shells) will fall all over us and the town," warned Ygor, a 34-year-old soldier, with a grimace.

Nearby, an iron cooking pot sits on a makeshift stove, with carrots, potatoes and onions bobbing at the top of a modest broth.

Locals stepped up to supply the soldiers with everything, they say, except cigarettes. And offi-

cially, not a drop of alcohol can be consumed on the front. In a concealed bunker, six soldiers huddled on pallets, trying to sleep between their guard shifts. But in the Donbas, the night is even worse than the day.

Russia's army chooses nightfall to unleash its most powerful firepower "for psychological warfare", Rybakova, the 93rd brigade's spokeswoman, said as she surveyed the scene on the edge of a road. A three-metre-long cylinder lies in a field — a Tochka, an immense Soviet-era ballistic missile. The fearsome weapon exploded on Friday night near an abandoned school now used as a military base, leaving behind a crater with a diameter of about 15 metres (49 feet).

Russia on Friday said it wanted total control over east and south Ukraine to create a corridor to the Crimean peninsula, which Moscow annexed in 2014. Izyum and Kreminna are among the places to have fallen to Russia's advance in recent weeks, while Ukrainian forces focus on containment.

## BORDER CROSSING



Palestinian workers arrive at last station in Beit Hanun in northern Gaza Strip before reaching Israel through the Erez border crossing on Tuesday.

# Without funding US will lose COVID treatments

Washington, Apr 26 (AP):

For much of the past two years, America has been first in line for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. Now, as drug-makers develop the next generation of therapies, the White House is warning that if Congress doesn't act urgently the US will have to take a number.

Already the congressional stalemate over virus funding has forced the federal government to curtail free treatment for the uninsured and to ra-

tion monoclonal antibody supplies.

And Biden administration officials are expressing increasing alarm that the US is also losing out on critical opportunities to secure booster doses and new antiviral pills that could help the country maintain its reemerging sense of normalcy, even in the face of potential new variants and case spikes.

Japan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Hong Kong have all placed orders for treatments and vaccine doses that the US

can't yet commit to, according to the White House.

Months ago, the White House began warning that the country had spent through the money in the 1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan that was dedicated directly to COVID-19 response.

It requested an additional 22.5 billion for what it called urgent needs in both the US and abroad.

The Senate last month closed in on smaller 10 billion package focused on domestic needs.

# Sri Lankans intensify anti-Govt protests



A Sri Lankan family protests to remove government in Colombo on Tuesday.

## Set up camp outside PM office

Colombo, Apr 26 (PTI):

Sri Lankan protesters, who have been camping at the main beachfront outside Sri Lankan President's Secretariat here, have now extended their protest to Prime

Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's office, as they intensified their demand for the government led by the Rajapaksa family to step down.

Thousands of demonstrators have hit the streets since April 9, as the government ran out of money for vital imports; prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed

and there are acute shortages in fuel, medicines and electricity supply.

The street protest opposite the presidential secretariat entered its 18th day on Tuesday, demanding the resignations of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, his 76-year-old elder brother.

The protesters have set up the Gota go home village' there.

To give impetus to the protest, the protesters have now set up a protest site Mahinda go home village' near Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's office-cum-residence known as Temple Trees.

Earlier, the Colombo magistrate court had refused to issue a police order preventing protests near the Temple Trees.

# Beijing enforces mass COVID testing



People line up to be tested for Covid-19 in Beijing on Tuesday.

Beijing, Apr 26 (AP):

China's capital Beijing is enforcing mass testing and closing down access to neighborhoods as it seeks to contain a new COVID-19 outbreak. Announcement of the testing had sparked panic buying in the city of 21 million, but the situa-

tion appeared to calm on Tuesday with public transport largely keeping to normal schedules and roads packed with commuters.

Fears of total lockdown have been fed by the situation in the southern business hub of Shanghai, where 25 million residents

have only gradually been allowed to leave their homes after three weeks of confinement.

The city of Anyang in central China and Dandong on the border with North Korea became the latest to start lockdowns as the omicron variant of the coronavirus spreads. Shanghai has buckled under strict lockdown conditions that have driven residents to band together to get food delivered through group buying. Goods have backed up at Shanghai's port, affecting supplies and factory production and crimping economic growth.

Beijing locked down residents in an area about 2 by 3 kilometers (1 by 2 miles), telling them to work from home and stay in their residential com-

pounds. It wasn't a total lockdown but stadiums, sports fields, cinemas, karaoke bars and other entertainment venues were ordered closed.

Elsewhere, the city also shut down some or all buildings in five residential compounds, adding to others have been locked down for two days. Beijing has recorded 80 cases in the most recent wave, while Shanghai has seen more than 300,000 and 190 deaths this month.

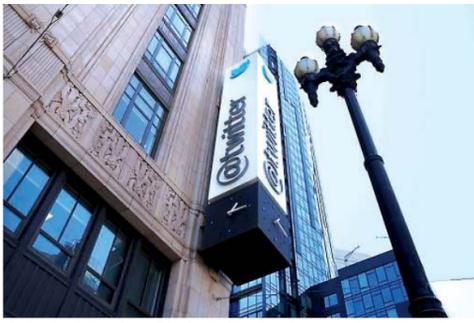
Beijing's local government has ordered Chaoyang district, home to some 3.5 million residents, to have three rounds of mass nucleic acid testing after the district registered the most COVID-19 cases in the capital's latest epidemic surge, official media reported.

# Musk's free speech push for Twitter is like repeating history

San Francisco, Apr 26 (AFP):

Elon Musk, the world's richest man, is spending \$44 billion to acquire Twitter with the stated aim of turning it into a haven for 'free speech.' There's just one problem. The social platform has been down this road before, and it didn't end well.

A decade ago, a Twitter executive dubbed the company 'the free speech party' to underscore its commitment to untrammelled freedom of expression. Subsequent events put that moniker to the test, as repressive regimes cracked down on Twitter



A sign is pictured outside the Twitter headquarters in San Francisco.

users, particularly in the wake of the short-lived 'Arab Spring' demonstrations. In the US, a visceral 2014 article by journalist Amanda Hess exposed

the incessant, vile harassment many women faced just for posting on Twitter or other online forums.

Over the subsequent

years, Twitter learned a few things about the consequences of running a largely unmoderated social platform, one of the most important being that companies generally don't want their ads running against violent threats, hate speech that bleeds into incitement, and misinformation that aims to tip elections or undermine public health.

"With Musk, his posturing of free speech, just leave everything up that would be bad in and of itself," said Paul Barrett, the deputy director of the Center for Business and Human Rights at New York University.

# Wildfires tear across several US states, driven by high winds

Omaha, Apr 26 (AP):

Firefighters across the country are battling multiple wildfires as tinder-dry conditions and high winds whip up flames from Arizona to Florida including a prairie fire in rural southwestern Nebraska that has killed one person, injured at least 15 firefighters and destroyed at least six homes.

A break in the weather in parts of the Midwest and West allowed crews to make progress on some of the nearly dozen new large fires that were reported in recent days across the nation four in New Mexico, three in Colorado and one each

in Florida, Nebraska, South Dakota and Texas.

With more than 3,496 square kilometres burned so far this year, officials at the National Interagency Fire Centre said the amount of land singed to date is outpacing the 10-year average by about 30%.

Hotter, drier weather has combined with a persistent drought to worsen fire danger across many parts of the West, where decades of fire suppression have resulted in

overgrown and unhealthy forests and increasing development have put more communities at risk.

In northern New Mexico, evacuations remained in place for several communities and conditions were still too volatile for authorities to assess the damage caused Friday and Saturday.

The blaze has grown into the largest wildfire burning in the US, charring more than 228 square kilometres.

# Australian opposition party vows to train Pacific armies

Canberra, Apr 26 (AP):

Australia's opposition party promised Tuesday to establish a Pacific defense school to train neighboring armies in response to China's potential military presence on the Solomon Islands. The school was among a range of measures that the center-left Labor Party has promised to increase Australia's engagement in its region if the opposition wins elections on May 21.

Labor has criticized Prime Minister Scott Morrison's conservative



Penny Wong

government over a security pact announced last week between China and the Solomon Islands. Australia and the United States fear the deal could result in a Chinese naval presence less

than 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) from the northeast Australian coast.

There are also concerns that other Pacific island countries financially weakened by the pandemic and its impact on tourism could be lured by China into similar deals. Labor foreign affairs spokesperson Penny Wong said Australia needed to restore its place as the partner of choice in the Pacific region.

"Let's be clear, the prospect of a Chinese base less than 2,000 kilometers from Australia's coastline is dramatically detrimental to

Australia's security interests," Wong said. "That has occurred on Morrison's watch."

The Australia-Pacific Defense School would deepen institutional links between the Australian Defense Force and its regional counterparts while supporting the region's needs, a policy statement said. Opposition defense spokesperson Brendan O'Connor said Australia currently only provided some training for its neighbors' commissioned military officers and none for lower ranks.

"In recent years, this government has been derelict when it comes to its relationship with ... Pacific island countries," O'Connor said. Morrison stood by his government's record during its nine years in office, saying Australia provided the Pacific with 1.8 billion Australian dollars (\$1.3 billion) a year in aid.

Australia was the only country in the world that had a diplomatic mission in each of the countries that make up the Pacific Islands Forum and has provided every country with naval patrol boats.

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खाण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)**  
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**निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना**

इस कार्यालय का निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक 726 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96125), 727 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96126), 728 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96127), 729 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96128), 730 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96129), 731 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96132), 732 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96136), 733 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96140), 734 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96143), 735 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96147), 736 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96148), 737 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96149), 738 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96150), 739 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96151), 740 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96152), 741 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96153), 742 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96154), 743 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 96155), जी नं. 90245 648 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 93775) 657 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 94085) 659 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 94090) जी. नं. 66455 को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खाण्ड**  
**महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)**

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# CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 27

## Political prospects

Some Congress leaders have raised serious concerns over Prashant Kishor's Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) entering into a poll tie-up with the TRS in Telangana for next assembly elections in the state. The Congress is now posed with a serious challenge of ironing out this issue, more so because Kishor has had a tie-up with Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. The TMC has "poached" many Congress leaders in the recent past, much to the consternation of top party leadership. Telangana minister KT Rama Rao has warned Prashant Kishor amid talks of him joining Congress and claimed Congress revival is impossible. The I-PAC is working with multiple parties across the country. The negotiation between Prashant Kishor and Congress leadership is even generating controversies. As Congress faces successive electoral defeats and regional parties find no mojo in Congress leadership to win, the very existence of Congress as national party is being questioned. The major challenge for Congress is that political narrative has shifted in age of social media. Pre-independence, the Congress defined nationalism of India and forced British out of India. Now, BJP is redefining nationalism of India according to its vision and Congress is unable to present an alternative. The lack of narrative of nationalism by Congress is hurting its political prospect. Congress has announced that an 'Empowered Action Group-2024' will be constituted to address the political challenges ahead and a 'Chintan Shivir' will be organised in Rajasthan's Udaipur in May. The 'Chintan Shivir' will also deliberate on the broad strategy of the Indian National Congress for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Prashant Kishor had reportedly proposed to the Congress leadership last year that a non-Gandhi as party president would have a 'high' impact although the 'viability' of such an option is 'difficult'. This is as per an 85-page presentation that did the rounds on social media amid a renewed round of talks between Kishor and the Congress leadership on a revival roadmap for the party. The presentation suggests that the party should adopt these six foundational resolves to reinvent itself. Besides, it should take five 'strategic decisions' to fix the leadership issue, solve the alliance conundrum, reclaim the party's founding tenets, create an army of grassroots leaders and foot-soldiers and an ecosystem of supportive media and digital propagation. The presentation to Congress party leadership now has added and removed some strategies, as per reports. The old presentation underlines how the Congress has been in 'perpetual decline' since 1985 with its vote share in the Lok Sabha elections dipping since then. It says how the Congress has a 'jaded and aged leadership' and has not undertaken a structured pan-India membership drive in the last 25 years. The party, it says, has not conducted a nationwide protest or agitation that has lasted for more than 24 hours since 2014. The last mass public outreach campaign was the Bharat Yatra undertaken by Rajiv Gandhi in 1990. As for alliances, the presentation says that the Congress going solo will have low electoral success but will have high future impact. It, however, prefers a Congress plus model where the party contests in 70 to 75 percent of the Lok Sabha seats and forges strategic regional alliances. Meanwhile, the income of the Indian National Congress declined by over 58 per cent in financial year 2020-21, down from Rs 682.2 crore in the previous fiscal to Rs 285.7 crore, according to its audit report submitted to the Election Commission. The party's expenditure, too, dipped from Rs 998.15 crore in the previous fiscal year, which also happened to be the year of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, to Rs 209 crore in FY 2021, the report submitted to the EC on March 30 revealed. The Congress' income in FY 2018-19 stood at Rs 918 crore. It has continued to decline since then. Now is the time for Congress party to make a decision regarding its political prospects.

## Price stability

Indian equity benchmarks in the stock markets extended their losses from the previous week as the markets are worried about the rising inflation besides the likelihood of monetary policy tightening in the US. Policy tightening, which essentially means rate hike, is negative for the Indian market. Confederation of Indian Industry President, TV Narendran has said that inflation is primary concern for India's industrial sector. The spectre of inflation is once again stalking the countries around the world, after a long period of dormancy during which policymakers were more likely to be preoccupied by price deflation. Now, old debates have resurfaced on how best to restore price stability. If countries have a knee-jerk reaction to these policies, immediately endorsing one remedy while rejecting others out of hand, think again. Economics is not a science with fixed rules. Varying conditions call for different policies. The only valid answer to policy questions in economics is that it depends. Orthodox remedies for inflation often have costly side effects (such as bankruptcies and rising unemployment) and have not always produced the desired effects quickly enough. Price controls have sometimes worked, during wartime for example. Moreover, when high inflation is driven predominantly by expectations rather than 'fundamentals,' temporary wage-price controls can help coordinate price-setters to move to a low-inflation equilibrium. Inflationary pressure seems to derive largely from a transitory set of factors, such as the pandemic-related reallocation of spending from services to goods, and supply-chain and other disruptions to production. While expansionary monetary and fiscal policies have boosted incomes, these policies, too, are temporary. The alternative would have been a dramatic collapse in employment and living standards. Under current circumstances, then, policymakers in countries should not over-react to the spike in inflation. Transitory inflation calls for a restrained response, whether through regulation or monetary policy. The best argument against price controls is not that they are incompatible with science but that nothing so radical needs to be considered for now. The same caution would apply to orthodox policy as well. Inflation targeting, is itself a product of peculiar political and economic circumstances. India needs to consider price stability policy.

## VALLEY OF PAPAVER



Israelis visit a field of Papaver flower family as it blooms near the valley in central Israeli city of Beit Shemesh.

## Present day world is protected by video surveillance from space

**ERIK GARTZKE & BRYAN EARLY**

Spying from space has lifted the veil over the battlefield, diffusing the fog of war and lessening the utility of aggression. No one likes to be caught in the act. Homes and businesses use CCTV cameras as a deterrent against crime and to document criminal behaviour when it occurs. Something similar can be said to have occurred in the current Russian invasion of Ukraine. Cameras in space are recording the activity of the war, sharing the movement of Russian forces with all of us, and documenting their war crimes. Ordinary citizens watching the evening news will know more about Russian troop dispositions in and around Ukraine than many heads of state would have been able to access in previous century's conflicts. In a 2021 study, researchers found nations possessing reconnaissance satellites were less likely to be attacked than other states. Surprise is an attractive and useful force multiplier in war, an attacker that can invade unannounced is more likely to win a war or major dispute. Spying from space using satellite technology makes it much harder for a nation to achieve strategic, or even tactical surprise, especially when attempting to conduct a larger, more intensive attack. The number of governments possessing their own reconnaissance satellites remains limited but has steadily grown, especially over the past two decades. This includes SpaceX, a leading private space exploration company, placing a Ukrainian recon-

naissance satellite into orbit for the first time in January of this year. Open-source satellite imagery has become ubiquitous, but such imagery only became commercially available in 2000. The quality of satellite images' resolution has also dramatically increased. Possessing national satellites still provides governments with significant advantages in having real-time access to satellite imagery and offers the ability to direct where satellites look. The deployment of Russian troops in and around Ukraine has been the focus of intense interest and concern since Russian President Vladimir Putin began his country's armoured build-up in late 2021. The availability of 'eyes in the sky' meant Putin could not achieve strategic surprise. So, Putin did not try to hide the possibility of invasion. Instead, Russian officials capitalised on the prospect of an attack, making demands of NATO and the West to the point that many observers suspected Putin was bluffing. He was not, in part because of Russia's superior surveillance capabilities. The United States and the United Kingdom highlighted the risk of a Russian invasion, in several instances predicting the how, when and where of attacks to the point that Russian commanders were forced to adjust their invasion plans. As tanks rolled into Ukraine from the west of Russia, the annexed Crimean peninsula and Belarus, photographic evidence led to international condemnation and sanctions. Some have credited the widespread availability of surveillance imagery of the Russian build-up and invasion with assisting in both the pace and scale of the international reaction.

But even a generally effective deterrent fails some of the time. Surveillance cameras record violations of the law because criminals are sometimes foolish or brazen enough to commit their transgressions anyway. Such is the case with Putin's invasion. We have all witnessed in near real time the scope of the Russian president's ambitions,

attacking Ukraine on multiple fronts, with multiple apparent military objectives and political goals. Russian officials stretch our credulity when they claim, for example, that Russia only ever intended to solidify control over the region of Donbas (on the eastern edge of Ukraine), when we have all seen the photos of long columns of Russian military vehicles stalled on the roads leading to the capital, Kyiv.

The ability to document actions from on high allows the world to judge for itself whether Russian forces are targeting civilians. Russian denials that its forces were involved in war crimes are shown to be inconsistent with commercial satellite imagery detailing the location of bodies that were later recovered after Russian forces withdrew from cities like Bucha. Pictures of Mariupol, taken from space, show a city reminiscent of urban centres in the grip of World War Two. They tell quite a different story than official claims from Moscow.

Defeat in the north has led the Russian military to revise its focus of attack to the south-east of Ukraine. This is due in no small part to the impact of space surveillance on Russian plans. Satellite imagery has allowed international observers to track the progress or lack thereof of Russian armoured columns day by day. Much has been made of the success of Ukrainian forces in interdicting these columns, destroying a substantial amount of Russian armour and killing or putting to flight Russian troops. But successful interdicting requires intelligence; mobile Ukrainian units, armed with anti-tank weapons, such as the US Javelin missile or the British Next generation Light Anti-tank weapons, still require information on the location of tanks in order to intercept them. Some of this information has been gleaned by RPVs (remotely piloted vehicles), such as the Turkish-made Bayraktar drones. Video imagery taken by Bayraktars and other RPVs has been a staple on social media covering the

war. But even drones need to have an inkling of where to look. It is an open secret that Western intelligence agencies are actively assisting in Ukraine's defence. Utilising various resources, the US has provided Ukraine's government with timely satellite imagery and intelligence to assist its defensive efforts. One of the unique benefits of space surveillance is the ability to disseminate information about a nation's espionage efforts without compromising sources and methods. Unlike a human spy, a satellite can be seen to be spying and still continue to do so. National leaders contemplating aggression will have to reflect on the effect space reconnaissance technology has had in making aggression more difficult. Over the past weeks, Russian forces have re-deployed to eastern Ukraine to concentrate their aggression on the Donbas. We know this because it is being photographed. Ukraine's army possesses an important advantage that embattled defenders in the past often lacked. An attacker could 'screen' its movements, maintaining tactical surprise by preventing those in the defence from knowing where they would be attacked next. Today, Ukrainian soldiers already know where Russia is preparing to strike. This can aid the Ukrainian armed forces both in preparing their defences and in taking the initiative to counter Russian manoeuvres.

Spying from space has lifted the veil over the battlefield, diffusing to some degree the fog of war and lessening the utility of aggression. It has made it possible for the world to see and document violence and transgressions that in the past might be undocumented, ignored or disputed. It can be an important mode of protection, deterring aggressors and criminals and aiding in their containment or punishment if necessary.

(Erik Gartzke is professor at University of California and Bryan Early is associate professor at Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy in US.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Diplomatic mastery

In 1947 India became an independent secular republic because of the extreme sacrifices made by the countrymen and also partly because of WW-II, which totally crippled the British militarily and economically. They were no longer in a position to rule their overseas empire. After WW-II, the world got divided into two military blocs, namely NATO and the Warsaw Pact. To maintain an equidistance from these two Blocs, India started a new movement named Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) along with Indonesia, then Yugoslavia, Egypt and Cuba etc. In the meantime, China under Mao and Chou became independent and Nehru tried in vain to rope in China into NAM, but later on NAM died a natural death. Later on, China became a permanent member of UNSC leaving India far behind. The recently-released film 'The Kashmir Files' depict the torture of the Kashmiri Pandits. The recent role played by the Government during the time of crisis in Afghanistan and Ukraine, where the lives of thousands of Indians were at stake, very simply proves the diplomatic mastery of entire Cabinet. Before concluding, I must say that diplomacy and flamboyancy are poles apart.

Ashim, via email

### Autobiography

Gundappa Viswanath's autobiography 'Wrist Assured', launched last month, should rekindle memories of the gifted and stylish right-hander's glorious days of cricket. Vishy, as he is popularly known, was a connoisseur's delight. He raised his degree of batting excellence when others failed. He added plenty of colours to Indian batting with his repertoire of strokes around the wicket. Short in height but not in stature, one cannot visualize the Karnataka star without his trademark square-cut that would often whizz past the gully and point regions, leaving the fielders in awe and admiration. Among Vishy's many great knocks, his 97 not out against the West Indies at Chepauk in 1975 was easily the best as it defined his granite resolve in a crisis situation. It was a master-class knock scored against crushing odds and the fury of Andy Roberts, that eventually helped India win the Test. Later, the innings was best described by Sunil Gavaskar in his book, Idols: "His 97 not out is the finest Test match innings I was privileged to see."

Ranganathan, via email

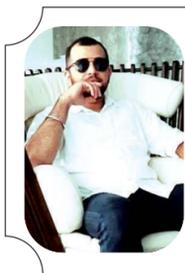


## WHAT THEY TWEET!

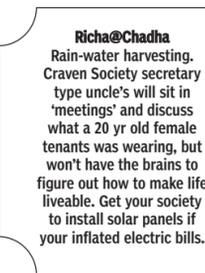


**Sunil@kulchandra**  
Probably the point which is missing is, they are all a bunch of career politicians. Objective is to remain in "Power". Idealism doesn't work for a politician. Remaining in power is the constant driver that makes them respond to things from which opportunities arises.

**Amana@Ansari**  
My biggest ideological fallout from the left was constant whining and no solutions, keeping the narrative of oppression alive by diving people into two groups and building careers and ignoring practicality. Not that I disagree with every idea they bring to the table.



**Vinyas@shetty**  
People from Mangalore, Udupi, other places migrate to Bangalore in search for jobs primarily due to lack of opportunities here and pay scale. However, few settled in Bangalore with good package eventually migrate to Gulf. Is it for better scale, lifestyle or any other reason?



**Richa@Chadha**  
Rain-water harvesting. Craven Society secretary type uncle's will sit in 'meetings' and discuss what a 20 yr old female tenants was wearing, but won't have the brains to figure out how to make life liveable. Get your society to install solar panels if your inflated electric bills.



**Jimu Mele@JimuMele**  
Lake 4th of Seven lake trek summit series of Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.



**Zucker@DoctorLFC**  
Bollywood celebrities will lecture you on health and fitness at every given opportunity on social media or during interviews but all it takes even for the richest of them to endorse a tobacco or alcohol product is the loophole of surrogate advertising. Role models my foot.

**Vinay@aravind**  
There should be more outrage about the fact that boosters under 60 in India are only available in private, and therefore unavailable to people who can't afford it. Why does the government not want poor people to get boosted? or is their desire to help corporates the priority?

**BRIEF**

**Funding**



**New Delhi:** Food startup VS Mani & Co on Tuesday said it has raised USD 3,70,000 (over Rs 2.5 crore) in an angel funding round. Co Founder GD Prasad said many south Indian foods are popular across the country but there are hardly any pan-India players.

**Investments**

**Chennai:** Global consulting, technology and managed services provider Proapt on Tuesday said the company has planned to double the investments made in the United Kingdom to 100 million pounds in the coming years in the technology sector. Early this year, Proapt had established a local office in London. Some of the customers in the United Kingdom include telecom operators, digital service providers and technology companies, among others.

**Raises**



**New Delhi:** Telehealth platform Truemedics on Tuesday said it has raised around Rs 168 crore in a funding round led by private equity fund Westbridge Capital. CEO Akshat Nayyar said the market moves towards generics is inevitable and Truemedics will lead.

**Ties-up**

**New Delhi:** Electric vehicle maker, One Moto India on Tuesday said it has partnered with Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co Ltd for insurance policies of its vehicles. Under the tie-up, One Moto India customers will be able to avail an add on cover-depreciation waiver that enables them full claim without deduction, to their motor policies issued by the brand.

**Launches**



**Farrukhnagar:** French third party logistics company FM Logistic on Tuesday inaugurated its first owned multi-client facility (MCF) here as part of its five-year 150 million euros investment plan. CEO Jean-Christophe Machet said we aim to help our customers.

**Generate**

**New Delhi:** EKI Energy Services Ltd (EKI) said it will generate 1 billion carbon credits by 2027. Carbon credits are earned by reduction of greenhouse gas emission in the atmosphere through climate-friendly projects, and can be used by governments, industries or private individuals to compensate for generating emissions elsewhere.

# FM invites US semicon players to make further investments in India

Washington, Apr 26 (PTD):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday held a meeting with representatives of the semiconductor industry of the US and invited them to make further investments in India.

The Finance Minister spoke about opportunities for companies situated in Silicon Valley and about the government of India's commitment to be a reliable player in the entire semiconductor value chain with dedicated incentive for the sector in mission mode through the Indian Semiconductor Mission.

Last year, the government approved a Rs 76,000-crore scheme to boost semiconductor and display manufacturing in the country in a bid to position India as a global hub for hi-tech production, and attract large chip makers.

Incentives have been lined up for companies engaged in silicon semicon-



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a roundtable meeting with business leaders and investors co-hosted by CII, at Silicon Valley.

ductor fabs, display fabs, compound semiconductors, silicon photonics, sensor fabs, semiconductor packaging and semiconductor design. During the roundtable with industry leaders from the semiconductor ecosystem, including design, manufacturing, equipment, technology and systems in San Francisco, the participants informed the Finance Minister that they

have substantially scaled their capabilities in India in the last few years and are also collaborating with Academia for R&D.

"The participants also mentioned that in view of global supply chain disruptions, they need to review overreliance of supply chain in certain jurisdictions and with the right policies and talent in place, next decade will belong to

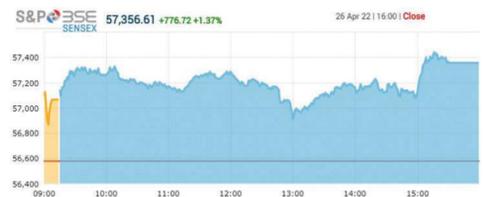
India," the finance ministry said in a tweet.

Participating in the meeting Devinder Kumar, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of AMD spoke about the company's growth in India and how India is poised to grow strongly with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat driving it. Western Digital, Senior Vice President, Corporate Business

**Be part of India's growth story**

Development Dan Steere said the company is excited to explore opportunities with the government of India to expand manufacturing in the Indian market. Manish Bhatia, executive vice president of global operations at Micron Tech said the USD 10 million scheme by the government would encourage semiconductor manufacturing in India.

## Markets rebound after 2-day slide, Sensex jumps 777 points



Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTD):

Benchmark indices rebounded sharply on Tuesday after falling for the past two sessions, with the Sensex rallying nearly 777 points, helped by buying in index major Reliance Industries and recovery in global markets.

The 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 776.72 points or 1.37 per cent to end at 57,356.61. During the day, it rallied 862.35 points or 1.52 per cent to 57,442.24.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 246.85 points or 1.46 per cent to finish at 17,200.80.

Larsen & Toubro, SBI, Bharti Airtel and HUL were among the major gainers. In contrast, Axis Bank, Asian Paints, Maruti and TCS closed with losses. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul settled in the green, while Shanghai ended lower.

Markets in Europe were also trading in the green in the afternoon session.

Stocks in the US had ended with gains on Monday.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.75 per cent to USD 101.55 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors continued their selling spree, offloading shares worth a net Rs 3,302.85 crore on Monday, according to stock exchange data.

## Rupee recovers to 76.60 against USD, bullion rises

Mumbai, Apr 26 (PTD):

Snapping its two-day losing streak, the rupee rose by 4 paise to 76.60 against the US dollar on Tuesday, following a rebound in regional currencies and domestic equities.

However, the appreciation bias in the local unit will be capped in the near-term amid fears about the economic impact of China's COVID-19 lockdowns and an aggressive pace of the US rate hikes, traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 76.48 against the greenback and moved in a range of 76.43 to 76.69 in the day trade. The rupee traded at 76.60 at 1530hrs, higher by

4 paise over its previous close of 76.64.

"Indian rupee inched up after two days of sharp sell-off following rebound in regional currencies and domestic equities. The fall in crude oil and commodity prices and expectations of foreign fund inflows from LIC IPO supporter will be followed by risk moods and movement in Chinese yuan," Parmar said.

However, the local unit is still not out of the woods as strength in the dollar against major currencies, weaker economic growth, higher inflation are likely to limit the gains.

"Broadly, spot USDINR is expected to trade in the range of 76 to 77 while near term directions will be followed by risk moods and movement in Chinese yuan," Parmar said.

### Canara Bank's Board Meeting scheduled on May 6

Bengaluru, Apr 26: Canara Bank in its notification to Stock Exchanges informed that its Board will meet on 6th May 2022 for approval of Financial Results and recommend consideration of Dividend, if any, for the FY 2021-22.

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said if the US-based Tesla is ready to manufacture its electric vehicles in India then there is 'no problem' but the company must not import cars from China.

In an interactive session at the Raisina Dialogue, Gadkari further said India is a large market and there is a huge potential for all electric vehicles.

"If Elon Musk (Tesla CEO) is ready to manufacture in India then there is no problem... Come to India, start manufacturing, India is a large market they can export from India," he said. The road transport and highways minister said



Union minister Nitin Gadkari speaking at Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi on Tuesday.

his request to Musk is to come and manufacture in India. "But if he wants to manufacture in China and sell in India, then it cannot be a good proposition for India," Gadkari said.

According to him, India has got all the competence. "The vendors are avail-

### High seasonal temperature is problem for batteries

**New Delhi:** Amid incidents of electric two-wheelers catching fire, Nitin Gadkari urged companies to take advance action to recall all defective vehicles, even as he said there is some problem with EV batteries when the temperature rises in the months of March, April and May.

able. We have all types of technology, we have all the spare parts," he said, adding that it will be a win-win situation for both India and Tesla. Last year, the heavy industries ministry had also asked Tesla to first start manufacturing its iconic electric vehicles in India before any tax concessions can be considered.

At present, cars imported as completely built units

(CBUs) attract customs duty ranging from 60-100 per cent, depending on engine size and cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value less or above USD 40,000.

Last year, in a letter to the road ministry, the US firm had stated that the effective import tariff of 110 per cent on vehicles with customs value above USD 40,000 is "prohibitive" to zero-emission vehicles.

## Series of steps taken to strengthen IPR regime

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

The government has taken a series of measures, including reducing the number of forms for trademarks and patents, to further strengthen the country's IPR (intellectual property rights) regime, a top government official said on Tuesday.

Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Anurag Jain also said several steps have been taken to enhance innovation and the knowledge economy.

We have the third largest startup ecosystem. We have reached a level of 80 startups being registered every day in our country, which is the high-



est in the world, he said here at a conference.

He said that in trade marks, there used to be 74 forms but now they have been reduced to just eight and similarly for patents, all the forms were scrapped and now there is only one form.

To increase awareness about IPR, he said there is a need to inculcate seeds of IP in the minds of young people.

## Assocham pitches for zero import duty on coal

### More rail rakes to deal with power supply issues

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

Industry body Assocham has made a case for duty-free import of coal, greater availability of railways rake to transport the dry fuel and different rate of diesel for captive generators for dealing with power supply issue amid summer.

"We would urge states and discoms not to differentiate against commercial consumers in power supply. This is critical because growth in industrial production remains muted despite the overall



Deepak Sood

economic recovery," Assocham Secretary General Deepak Sood said.

Assocham has suggested key measures, including duty-free imports of coal along with increased availability of railway rakes for movement of coal and differential rate of diesel for captive gener-

ator sets for tackling challenges of power supply in several states, amidst unprecedented early onset of heatwave conditions in several parts of the country. While the Centre has allowed blending of imported coal to the extent of 10 per cent with the domestic coal, global supply constraints and a sharp rise in the prices in the international markets are making going difficult for power generating companies and discoms in the further chain of transmission, he added.

"Although the import duty on coal is 2.5 per cent at present, we would urge scrapping the duty for now in view of the pressing situation," he stated.

## HAL, Bharat Electronics ink deal to make IRST for Su-30 MKI jets

Bengaluru, Apr 26 (PTD):

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Tuesday said it has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for co-development and co-production of Long Range Dual Band Infra-Red Search and Track System (IRST) for Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jets.

The contract was signed under the MAKE-II procedure of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, as part of the Make in India initiative.

"The proposed IRST system will be a high-end strategic technology prod-

uct in the field of defence avionics and technically competitive to existing IRST system in the global market with features of Television Day Camera, Infrared & LASER sensors in single window for air-to-air and air-to-ground target tracking and localization," HAL said in a release. The system will enhance the Indian Air Force's air superiority, it said. The coming together of two defence PSUs for development of technologically critical IRST gives impetus to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the defence sector, the release stated.

## Intervention sought to restore insurance premium rates for hotel properties

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

Hospitality industry body Hotel Association of India (HAI) on Tuesday said it has asked the government to intervene to restore insurance premium rates for hotel properties to FY 2018-19 level, stating these have been increased by over two-and-half times by re-insurers.

In a submission to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the body has highlighted that there has been a steep rise in insurance premiums for hotel properties in the last few years, putting all hotels at par without offering flexibility to insurance compa-



nies to quote according to the risk category of the insured, HAI said in a statement.

In its recommendation, HAI said it has asked the government to "restore the insurance premium rates for hotel properties to the level of FY 2018-19", adding it has pointed out that "the General Insurance Corporate of India Ltd (GIC Re) and

other re-insurers have increased the premium rates substantially by more than two-and-half times from the pre-FY 2018-19 levels."

Re-insurers provide financial protection to insurance companies handling risks that are too large for insurance companies to handle on their own thereby making it possible for them to obtain business that they would not otherwise be able to.

"The two-and-half times increase is putting additional pressure on hotel chains, especially those who have invested a lot in safety and preventive protocols.

## Sebi attaches properties to recover investors' money

New Delhi, Apr 26 (PTD):

With an aim to recover investors' money to the tune of Rs 56 crore, capital markets regulator Sebi has attached as many as 14 properties related to Greentouch Projects and its four directors in an illegal fundraising case.

The properties being attached include land parcels, plots, office spaces and a flat located in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, according to a recovery notice issued.

The recovery proceedings have been initiated against Greentouch Projects and its four directors - Shyam Sundar Singh, Snehasish Sarkar, Sujoy

Sinha and Sumon Sarkar - for failure to repay Rs 56 crore collected by the company through non-convertible redeemable debentures to 20,549 individuals without complying with public issue norms specified under the Companies Act and Sebi's ILDS (Issue and Listing of Debt Securities) rules. However, the company had claimed to have already repaid an amount of over Rs 12.24 crore to its investors.

Since the shares were issued by the firm to more than 50 individuals, it qualified as a public issue that requires compulsory listing on a recognised stock exchange, among others.